DH

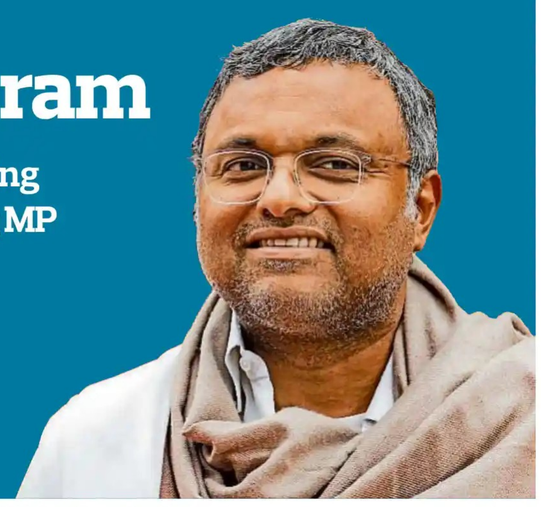
DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Trouble brews for Karti Chidambaram

Delhi court orders framing of charges against Cong MP in visa scam case

Page 7



Nation

'Biggest fugitives' Lalit Modi, Mallya captured on London party video P.7

World

It will be 'smart' for Maduro to step down: Trump P.11

Business

India, NZ to collaborate in banking, fintech P.12

Nation

Unnao rape: Jail term of Sengar suspended P.7

NEW DELHI

VHP and Bajrang Dal members breach barricades near the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi. PTI

KOLKATA

Police lathi-charge protesters in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

B'desh diplomatic tensions ripple on Indian streets

Protests in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai; both nations summon envoys

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA/ MUMBAI, PTI & DHNS

Holding saffron flags and shouting slogans against the lynching of a Hindu man in Bangladesh, hundreds of supporters of the VHP and the Bajrang Dal broke barricades and clashed with police near the fortified Bangladesh High Commission on Tuesday.

A similar protest erupted in Kolkata, where hundreds of supporters of a pro-Hindutva outfit tried to march to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission and clashed with the police, and in Mumbai as activists of Bajrang Dal and the VHP demonstrated outside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission. Besides that, India called in Bangladesh envoy Riaz Hamidullah and sought a thorough probe into killing of Bangladeshi student leader Sharif Osman Hadi after Dhaka summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma to convey its "grave concern" over the security of its missions in India.

In Delhi, several barricades lay in disarray as police struggled to contain the surge.

The high security area witnessed a beefed-up police presence in the morning ahead of the protest announced by the Hindu right against the lynching of a Hindu man in the strife-torn neighbouring nation.

The area had been secured with seven layers of barricades and a reinforced presence of police and paramilitary.

An officer said a 1,500-strong police force was deployed ahead of the demonstration. He said police managed to hold the protesters about 800 metres from the high commission.

▸ Bangladesh, Page 6

MUMBAI

CHAOS OVER LYNCHING

- Cops manage to hold the protesters about 800 metres from B'desh high commission
- Several protesters claim agitation would not be limited to a single day; minor scuffles break out
- In Kolkata, police baton-charge protestors; at least 12 of them are arrested; police personnel sustain minor injuries
- In Mumbai, Bajrang Dal, VHP activists demonstrate outside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission

1,500 strong police force deployed in Delhi, but right-wing activists breach barricades

Only one teacher in state's 6,675 govt schools

Govt cites hiring delay due to internal quota issue; 51k guest teachers hired

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

More than 6,000 government schools in the state have only a single teacher this academic year, an increase of around 1,200 such institutions compared to the previous academic year, according to government data.

While the state had 5,412 single-teacher schools in the 2024-25 academic year, the figure has gone up to 6,675 this time, an increase of 1,263.

This data was shared by School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa in the Legislative Council in response to an unstarred question by BJP member KS Naveen in the recently concluded session at Belagavi.

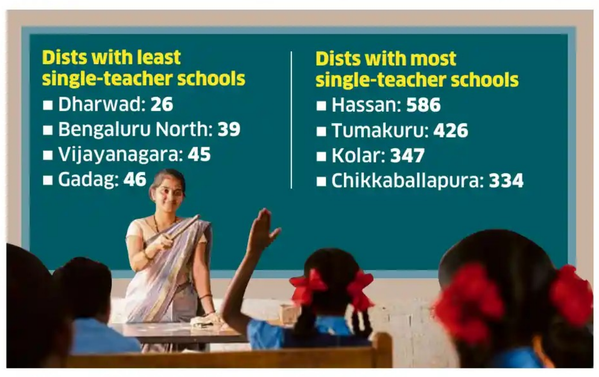
There are around 49,000 government schools in the state.

According to the data, Hassan district has the most number of schools with a single teacher (586), followed by Tumakuru (426), Kolar (347) and Chikkaballapura (334).

Dharwad has the least number of schools with a single teacher (26), followed by Bengaluru North (39), Vijayanagara (45) and Gadag (46).

According to officials, a shortage of teachers is the main reason for the rise in the number of such schools.

▸ Teachers, Page 6



No admission in 188 schools

As per the data provided by the state government in the recently concluded Legislative Council session, 188 government schools have failed to attract a single admission in the current academic year. Of this, 160 were lower primary, 25 higher primary and 3 high schools. Zero-enrollment schools are more in Tumakuru (45), followed by Kalburgi (21), Kolar (20), Koppal (18) and Bidar (17).

H-1B visa: US scraps lottery system, favours higher skills & pay

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

In a significant change to the H-1B visa programme, the Trump administration is replacing the random lottery system that selected visa beneficiaries with a process that will prioritise allocation of visas to higher-skilled and higher-paid individuals.

The new guidance is the latest amid an intensifying crackdown by the Trump administration on immigration, both legal and illegal, as well as the H-1B visas, which are used by corporations in the US to hire foreign talent. Indian professionals are among the largest cohort of H-1B visa holders in the US.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Department of Homeland Security said that it is amending regulations governing the H-1B work visa selection process to prioritise the allocation of visas to higher-skilled and higher-paid individuals to better protect the wages, working conditions, and job opportunities for American workers.

The new rule is effective February 27, 2026, and will be in place for the FY 2027 H-1B cap registration season.

The number of H-1B visas issued annually is limited to 65,000, with an additional 20,000 for US advanced degree holders.

▸ H-1B visa, Page 6

Centre accused of statistical jugglery on Aravalli

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Notwithstanding the assurances given by the Union Environment Ministry on its protection, questions are being raised on the new definition of Aravalli.

Critics claim that a large part of the hill and range may not get the protection if mining permissions are given on the basis of the new definition accepted by the Supreme Court.

While senior Congress leader and former environment minister Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said he would be filing a petition in the SC in January, former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot said the central government was indulging in statistical jugglery to mislead people.

Details on Page 6

Setback for KSCA as cops say no to matches at Chinnaswamy

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a setback to the Karnataka State Cricket Association's efforts to get high-profile matches back at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, the police have denied permission to host the Vijay Hazare Trophy games based on the observations of the review committee that inspected the venue on Monday.

While confirming the development, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh refused to share details of the report, stating that it was submitted to the state government by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao.

The matches will now be played at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence near Devanahalli airport. Virat Kohli's Delhi is scheduled to meet Andhra in a Group D opener on Wednesday.

Virat Kohli at BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

The newly elected body at the KSCA had requested the government to allow matches to be held at Chinnaswamy following an unofficial ban after the June 4 stampede that left 11 fans dead and scores injured. The association officials had even offered to conduct the matches behind closed doors, but the authorities refused to relent.

▸ KSCA, Page 6

Akhlaq lynching: UP plea to withdraw charges junked

LUCKNOW, DHNS: A Noida court rejected on Tuesday an application by the Uttar Pradesh government seeking to withdraw all charges against the accused in the Mohammed Akhlaq lynching case, and ordered expeditious trial in the infamous case.

The case pertains to the alleged mob lynching of Mohammed Akhlaq in Dadri district in 2015 over rumors that he had slaughtered a cow and stored its meat at his house.

The prosecution had contended that withdrawal of the case would lead to "restoration of communal harmony".

Additional District Judge Sourav Dwivedi said there was no legal basis for the withdrawal application.

Details on Page 10

ASSAM DISTRICT ON BOIL

People throw stones during a clash between two groups at Kheroni in West Karbi Anglong district, Assam, on Tuesday. Two people died in fresh violence. PTI

Report, Page 10

New B'luru-Mumbai 'superfast' train to be slower than Udyan

BENGALURU, DHNS: The much-anticipated "superfast" train between Bengaluru and Mumbai will take nearly 24 hours, making it slower than the existing dedicated service on the route.

The new train will cover 1,209 km in about 24 hours, via Hubballi, at an average speed of around 50km/hr.

The Udyan Express, which runs daily between the two cities, covers the distance in less than 24 hours. Page 2

CM aide flags DKS 'lapses' in letter to Rahul

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior Congress lawmaker KN Rajanna has told top leader Rahul Gandhi that the party could have won 8-10 more Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka had D K Shivakumar "paid proper attention" to "lapses" in the appointment of booth-level agents.

KN Rajanna

Rajanna's criticism of Shivakumar's performance as the Karnataka Congress president figures in a November 17 letter to Rahul, which was leaked Tuesday.

The letter is being viewed as a major escalation of the power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy Shivakumar.

Rajanna is a Siddaramaia loyalist.

Details on Page 3B

MLA faces arrest after advance bail plea blow

Byrathi Basavaraj

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj faces arrest in the Biklu Shiva murder case after a court here rejected on Tuesday his anticipatory bail plea.

The special court for cases related to elected representatives passed the order after hearing detailed arguments of both the MLA's counsel and the government prosecutor.

The CID is probing the history-sheeter's murder case, allegedly involving the KR Puram legislator.

Basavaraj, who has gone into hiding, is suspected to be in Maharashtra or Telangana. Page 6

PUNCTUALITY PUSH

Speaker mulls linking MLAs' attendance with grants

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Speaker UT Khader is considering a plan to link constituency grants with the performance of MLAs in the Assembly, in an apparent bid to increase MLAs' attendance and participation in legislature proceedings.

According to sources, the Speaker is likely to propose the idea to members of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka. Khader is the chairperson of the BAC.

A meeting of stakeholders may be held soon, but the final decision on providing grants rests with the government.

Khader has often insisted on greater attendance, and even during the just-concluded Winter Session, he urged MLAs, particularly youngsters, to participate in discussions and listen to veteran legislators.

According to data obtained by *DH*, 44 MLAs were absent each day on an average during the recent Belagavi session.

Absence of MLAs was highest (46.85%) on December 15, when the House adjourned after expressing condolences over the demise of veteran Congressman and sitting MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa. It was minimum on December 09 (6.73%).

While MLAs across parties agree that there must be measures to increase legislative participation, some felt the lack of participation was due to short sessions.

▸ Attendance, Page 6

PRESENCE MATTERS

- Speaker likely to propose plan to Business Advisory Committee
- Final decision on grants rests with govt
- Some MLAs feel reduced attendance is due to short sessions
- Some suggest extending session by more days rather than holding it from morning to night everyday
- Another suggestion is to give more grants to MLAs who have more attendance

Quickly

Techie shoots wife dead a week after divorce notice

A 40-year-old software engineer allegedly shot his estranged wife to death in southwestern Bengaluru on Tuesday evening before walking into a police station and surrendering. The victim had served him a divorce notice just a week ago.

Details on Page 2

10% of voters deleted in the SIR of 11 states, UTs

A little over 10% or 3.67 crore names have been omitted in the draft electoral rolls of 11 states and Union Territories published after second round of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) owing to death, shifting or having registered in multiple places.

Details on Page 7

Largest hydropower project starts ops

India's largest hydropower power project, the 2,000MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project, began operation with one of its eight (unit 2) units starting on Tuesday, after 20 years of work that saw public protests and cost escalation.

Details on Page 7

AI strengthens resume screening, saves time

AI is now embedded across the hiring lifecycle, right from searching, selecting resumes, to filtering profiles, matching candidates to role-based projects/work. With AI adoption in hiring workflows, employers created around 11,200 AI-enabled job listings, resulting in about 12 lakh automated screenings.

Details on Page 12

BIFFes to be held from Jan 29 to Feb 6

The 17th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) will be held between January 29 and February 6. The theme this year will likely be centred on women empowerment. The main venue will be Cinepolis at Lulu Mall.

Details on Page 3B

AIADMK, BJP begin seat-sharing talks

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami held seat-sharing talks for the 2026 Assembly election with BJP Tamil Nadu election in-charge and Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in Chennai on Tuesday. It is believed that the AIADMK reiterated that it would like to contest about 170 of the total 234 seats.

Details on Page 7

B'luru-Mumbai 'superfast' train to take 24 hrs, gets Rly Board nod

MPs seek shorter travel time, some say won't benefit passengers

BENGALURU, DHNS

The much-anticipated "superfast" train between Bengaluru and Mumbai will take nearly 24 hours, making it slower than the existing dedicated service on the route.

The Railway Board earlier this month approved the South Western Railway's (SWR) proposal to introduce the bi-weekly service, a senior official said. However, a formal notification is still awaited, he added.

The train will cover 1,209 km in around 24 hours with 14 stoppages via Hubballi. It will have 17 LHB coaches, with primary maintenance at SMVT Bengaluru.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced the new service in late September in response to a request from Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya.

Surya had said the demand for a superfast train between the two cities had been pending for 30 years. There is only one dedicated train — the Udyan Express — and it takes a lot of time, he had noted.

The Udyan Express, which runs via Guntakal and Kalaburagi, covers 1,136 km in 23 hours and 35 minutes from Bengaluru to Mumbai, and 21 hours and 50 minutes in the return direction.

The railway minister's announcement had raised expectations that the "superfast" train would cut travel time to 18 hours or less, the same as bus journeys.

However, if the timetable approved by the Railway Board is anything to go by, the new service will be anything but superfast.

The Bengaluru–Mumbai service will have an average speed of 50.18 kmph, and the return service 52 kmph.

The railways define a superfast train as one with an average speed of 55 kmph or more.

Surya thanked the Railway Board for the new service, something that, he said, had not been done for about 30 years.

"Our request to the Railway Board continues to be for shorter journey time, which will greatly improve connectivity between the two cities. We will continue to seek this service request, too," he told *DH*.

Surya added that the train would improve connectivity with North Karnataka, with stoppages in Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad and Belagavi. This will bring tremendous benefit to passengers in Kittur-Karnataka and facilitate economic development in the region, he said.

Bangalore Central MP P C Mohan said travel time should be 18 hours or less, on a par with bus journeys, with fewer stops.

"I will pursue the matter with the railways and make efforts to reduce the travel time," he told this newspaper.

K N Krishna Prasad of the Karnataka Railway Vedike criticised the timings, noting that the train would not benefit passengers much.

Services and schedule

The train service — 16553/16554 SMVT Bengaluru–LTT Mumbai–SMVT Bengaluru — will run twice a week.

The down service (16553) will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 8.35 pm on Saturdays and Tuesdays, and reach LTT Mumbai at 8.40 pm the next day.

The up service (16554) will depart from LTT Mumbai at 11.15 pm on Sundays and Wednesdays, and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 10.30 pm the next day.

The train will have 14 stoppages — four in Karnataka (Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad and Belagavi) and 10 in Maharashtra (Miraj, Sangli, Karad, Satara, Lonand, Pune, Lonavala, Karjat, Kalyan and Thane).

Techie kills estranged wife a week after divorce notice

Couple married in 2011 but were living separately due to marital discord

BENGALURU, DHNS

A software engineer allegedly shot dead his estranged wife near Rajajinagar on Magadi Road on Tuesday evening before walking into a police station and surrendering, police said.

The victim had served him a divorce notice just a week ago.

It is said that tension prevailed among local residents for some time following the incident, and an FSL team and senior police officials inspected the crime scene.

Around 6.30 pm, Balamurugan (40) allegedly lay in wait for his 39-year-old wife, Bhuvaneshwari, as she was walking back home after her evening walk. He opened fire at her multiple times, inflicting fatal injuries, and later went to the police station to surrender.

She was rushed to a private hospital in Basaveshwaranagar, where she was declared brought dead.

Bhuvaneshwari was an assistant manager at Union Bank of India's Basaveshwaranagar branch and lived in Rajajinagar with her two children. Balamurugan worked with a multinational IT firm in Whitefield. The couple hailed from Tamil Nadu.

According to police, the couple married in 2011 but had been living separately for the past one-and-a-half years due to marital discord. Balamurugan allegedly suspected his wife of having an extramarital affair, while Bhuvaneshwari had been seeking legal separation, which he opposed.

Police said Bhuvaneshwari had relocated from Whitefield to the Basaveshwaranagar branch six months ago and had been living with her children without Balamurugan's knowledge.

However, he traced her residence four months ago and moved to Cholurpalya, in KP Agrahara police station limits. A week ago, he received a legal notice seeking divorce, police added.

"Bhuvaneshwari used to go for a walk every day, and the accused had been observing her routine. Based on this, he carried out the attack. He fired five rounds — the victim sustained gunshot injuries to both hands, while two bullets hit her on the head. After the incident, the accused walked to the police station and surrendered, handing over the pistol along with one live round.

An investigation is under way into the pistol used in the crime to ascertain whether it was licensed and how it was procured. The accused resigned from his job four months ago and was not working anywhere. Magadi Road police have registered a case of murder and taken him into custody for thorough interrogation.

Holiday rush: Traffic curbs near major malls in city

BENGALURU, DHNS

With large crowds expected to congregate for Christmas and holiday festivities, the city traffic police have issued advisories for the Pulakeshinagar and Mahadevapura areas to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

Davis Road closure

In anticipation of a massive gathering at Holy Ghost Church, traffic will be restricted from 7 pm on Wednesday to noon on Thursday. Davis Road will remain temporarily closed between the John Armstrong Road and Cookson Road junctions.

Alternative route

Commuters travelling from Davis Road toward HM Road must take a right at the John Armstrong Road Junction, proceed straight, take a left

onto Viviani Road, and then another left onto Cookson Road to rejoin Davis Road.

Parking is prohibited on Davis Road, Banasawadi Main Road, Wheeler's Road, St John's Church Road, Haines Road, and Promenade Road during this period.

Mall rush

Anticipating heavy footfall near Phoenix Mall, VR Mall, and Nexus Shantiniketan, curbs will be in place from noon on Wednesday until 11 pm on December 28.

ITPL Main Road will be a 'No Parking' zone from Shell Petrol Bunk to Garudacharpalya Decathlon, and from Medicare Hospital to the Big Bazaar junction, on both sides.

Pick-up and drop-off

For Phoenix Mall, commuters are directed to the Bescom office (drop-off) and Lowry Junction (pick-up). For Nexus Shantiniketan, the designated points are Rajapalya and Aster Hospital, respectively. Vehicles from Hoodi or KR Puram must turn at Shell Petrol Bunk and use the Railway Parallel Road to enter the mall via the rear gate.

Special trains to Kerala for Christmas

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate special trains connecting Bengaluru and Kerala to clear the Christmas rush.

Train number 06575 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 4.35 pm on Wednesday and reach Kannur at 7.50 am on Thursday.

Train number 06576 will depart froom Kannur at 10 am on Thursday. and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 12.15 am on Thursday.

Train number 06573 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 3 pm on Thursday and reach Kollam at 6.30 am on December 26.

Train number 06574 will depart from Kollam at 10.30 a.m. on December 26 and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 3.30 am on December 27.

Sub-inspector caught taking bribe to file 'B' report

BENGALURU, DHNS: A sub-inspector posted at the Chikkajala police station was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of Rs 2 lakh for filing a 'B report' in a cheating case, the Lokayukta police said.

Acting on a complaint lodged by one Ravikumar, the Lokayukta police registered a case and laid a trap, arresting PSI Shivanna while he was accepting the bribe money, officials said.

Officials said a cheating case was registered at the Chikkajala police station against Ravikumar. To file a 'B report' in the case, Shivanna allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 3 lakh.

A police "B Report" (or B-Summary) is a final report filed by the police to the court, indicating the complaint was false, malicious, and no offense occurred, meaning the accused is not guilty and should be discharged.

Unwilling to pay the bribe, Ravikumar approached the Lokayukta police and lodged a complaint.

Based on the complaint, the Lokayukta police registered a case and conducted a trap operation. As per the plan, Ravikumar placed Rs 2 lakh in cash on Shivanna's two-wheeler parked near the police station.

When Shivanna came to collect the money, Lokayukta officials caught him red-handed in the presence of witnesses and took him into custody for further investigation.

Diversions in place near Marathahalli Bridge amid metro work

BENGALURU, DHNS

The new traffic diversions introduced at the Marathahalli Bridge Junction on a trial basis have hit two-wheeler riders and local commuters hard, residents say.

The diversions, which came into effect on Monday and are aimed at reducing congestion due to metro construction, have altered the commute for those coming from Devarabeesanahalli and Kadubeesanahalli.

Vehicles coming from Devarabeesanahalli and Kadubeesanahalli (KLM Service Road) can no longer turn right towards Varthur or Whitefield at the bridge.

The median at Tulsi Theatre Junction has now been closed.

Vehicles coming from the Marathahalli side are prohibited from taking a U-turn at the Doddanekundi Junction.

Alternative routes

To Varthur/Kundalahalli: From Devarabeesanahalli, stay on the Outer Ring Road, take a U-turn at Karthik Nagar Junction, and use the Kalamandir Service Road to reach Varthur Main Road.

To KR Puram: Vehicles from Marathahalli or Kundalahalli should turn right at the Doddanekundi Main Road Junction and proceed towards Karthik Nagar to join the Outer Ring Road.

Traffic moves slowly from Mahadevapura to Marathahalli due to ongoing metro station construction near Karthik Nagar. PHOTO/BTP

A commuter said, "While the main junction feels less chaotic, the detour is tiring for those of us on two-wheelers. We are being sent nearly two kilometres out of our way just to head towards Whitefield. By the time we reach the Karthik Nagar U-turn, we're stuck in a massive queue of buses and cabs that can't manoeuvre quickly enough."

A resident of Marathahalli said, "The closure of the Tulsi Theatre median has completely cut off access to local markets, leaving service roads and local residents stranded. They need to synchronise the signals at Karthik Nagar better to ease traffic."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, East) Sahil Bagla noted that while the Blue Line metro construction continues to squeeze road width, these trials are essential. "We are seeing little congestion as commuters familiarise themselves with the routes. We are monitoring the data to see what further refinements can be made," he said.

Metro-bus link gets stronger with new feeder routes

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) have coordinated efforts to improve last-mile connectivity for metro and bus passengers.

The BMTC has introduced the feeder bus services connecting metro stations with nearby residential and commercial areas.

Jnanabharathi Metro Station to Bharathnagar 2nd Stage via Vidyaniketana Public School, Muddaiana Palya Junction, Bharathnagar 1st Stage and Byadarahalli.

The first service from Jnanabharathi Metro Station is at 6.25 am and the last at 8.55 pm.,

From Bharathnagar 2nd Stage, the first bus service is at 5.50 am and the last at 8.15 pm.

KR Pura Metro Station to Sarjapur via Mahadevapura Junction, Doddanekkundi Railway Station, Marathahalli Bridge Junction, Kadubeesanahalli, Devarabeesanahalli, Dodda Kannali, Kodathi Gate, Muthanalluru Cross, Dommasandra, Yamare and Sompura Gate.

The first service from KR Pura Metro Station is at 5.30 am and the last 8.40 pm.

From Sarjapur, the first service is at 5.30 am and the last at 8.40 pm.

Tin Factory (Benniganahalli Metro Station) to Bidarahalli via TC Palya Cross, Kittaganuru and East Point College Back Gate.

The first service from Tin Factory is at 8.50 am and the last at 5.35 pm.

From Bidarahalli, the first bus is at 8 am and the last at 4.45 pm.

The BMTC is also introducing four AC bus services from SMVT Bengaluru railway station to Silk Board Junction via Indiranagar Police Station, Military Bridge, Koramangala Water Tank and Madiwala on the V-MF-5 route on Thursday.

The first service from SMVT Bengaluru is at 5.15 am and the last at 9.45 pm.

In the return direction, the first service departs at 6.05 am and the last at 10.40 pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that I have been engaged by my client to investigate the title relating to all that piece and parcel of agricultural, undeveloped and vacant lands, which are as follows;

Item No. 1: (1) 37 Guntas out of total extent of 1 Acre 22 Guntas in Sy. No. 101/1 (2) 1 Acre 39 Guntas out of total extent of 3 Acre 18 Guntas in Sy. No. 101/2 (3) 5 Guntas in Sy. No. 99/5 (4) 1 Acre 12 Guntas in Sy. No. 100/3 (5) 27 Guntas out of total extent of 1 Acre 13 Guntas in Sy. No. 100/4, all situated at Agalagurki Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, which are owned by L. Renuka Reddy also known as K. Renuka Devi, D/o L. Sambi Reddy, W/o Sri. Balarami Reddy, residing at Door No. 844, Coronada Drive, Arcadia, California, 91007, USA, and;

Item No. 2: (1) 28 Guntas out of total extent of 3 Acre 18 Guntas in Sy. No. 101/2, (2) 8 Guntas in Sy. No. 99/4, (3) 1 Acre 12 Guntas in Sy. No. 100/1, (4) 26 Guntas out of total extent of 1 Acre 13 Guntas in Sy. No. 100/2, and (5) 6 Guntas in Sy. No. 103/1, all situated at Agalagurki Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, which are owned by L. Urmila Devi, D/o L. Sambi Reddy, W/o. P. Vasudev Reddy, residing at Flat No. 202, Plot No. 134, Srinivasam, Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad.

Item No. 1 and 2 Properties are more-fully set out in the Schedule hereto and hereinafter collectively referred to as the "**Schedule Property**".

If any person has any right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to the Schedule Property or any part thereof or, has executed any transactions or documents (whether registered or unregistered) with the Owners or predecessors in title of the Schedule Property, having the effect of creating an encumbrance thereon, are called upon to submit their statements, objections or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received, I would conclusively presume that no person has any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge, or encumbrance whatsoever existing on the Schedule Property or any part thereof and I will issue my opinion confirming that the owner has title in respect of the Schedule Property.

Schedule Property: All that piece and parcel of agricultural, undeveloped and vacant lands situated at Agalagurki Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, which are more fully described in the schedule herein below;

Item No. 1:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries for the total extent in each Sy. No.			
		Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1.	101/1		37	Sy. No.94.	Sy. No. 101/2.	Sy. No. 100/3.	Sy. No. 101/3.
2.	101/2	1	39	Sy. No. 101/1, 100/ 3,4,2 & 1.	Sy. No. 119.	Sy. No. 102.	Remaining Portion of Sy, No.101/2
3.	99/5		5	Sy. No. 99/2.	Sy.No.100/4	Sy. No. 99/4	Sy. No. 94.
4.	100/3	1	12	Sy. No. 94.	Sy. No. 101/2.	Sy. No. 100/4.	Sy. No. 101/1.
5.	100/4		27	Sy. No. 99/5.	Sy. No. 101/2.	Sy. No. 100/2.	Sy. No. 100/3.

Item No. 2:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries for the total extent in each Sy. No.			
		Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1.	101/2		28	Sy.No.101/3.	Sy. No. 119.	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 102.	Sy. No. 89/2 & 3 and Sy. No.90.
2.	99/4		8	Sy. No. 99/2.	Sy.No.100/2	Sy. No. 103/1.	Sy. No. 99/5.
3.	100/1	1	12	Sy. Nos. 103/1 and 99/4	Sy. No. 101/2.	Sy. No. 102 and 103/6	Sy. No. 100/2.
4.	100/2		26	Sy.No.99/4 & 99/5.	Sy. No. 101/2.	Sy. No. 100/1.	Sy. No. 100/4.
5.	103/1		6	Sy. No.99/1.	Sy.No.100/1	Sy. No. 103/6.	Sy. No. 99/4.

Date: 23.12.2025, Bangalore

Mohan Kumar G. M, Advocate (KAR:2438/2018),
No.40/1, Vittal Mallya Road, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Bangalore-560 001.
Ph. No-9902445138, Mail-id- mohankumargm08@gmail.com.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SALEM DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Salem - 636 005 for the following work.

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	
1	Tender Notice No. and Date	GEM/2025/B/6983316, Dated: 19.12.2025
2	Name of the Work	Complete maintenance of Mettupalayam Running Room & Brakesman Rest Room including cooking and serving of food to running staff for the period of Two years (730 Days)
3	Estimate Value	₹ 60,19,723/-
4	Tender Closing Date & Time	12.01.2026, 10.00 Hrs.
5	Tender Opening Date & Time	12.01.2026, 10.30 Hrs.
6	Web Address	https://www.gem.gov.in

The Tender has been uploaded on the GeM poral **https://www.gem.gov.in** on 24.12.2025

The firms registered in GeM portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. Complete details of the above tenders are given on the GeM portal "**www.gem.gov.in** For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal "**www.gem.gov.in**".

For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal "**www.gem.gov.in**"

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer / Salem - 636 005

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

GeM NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Madurai - 625016 for and behalf of The President of India invites Online tenders in Single Packet system from reputed contractors for the following work as per tender notice given in Government e-Marketing place (GeM) Portal. The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to apply for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled **in the GeM portal and only online tenders will be accepted.**

1.	Name of the work	Welding work of wagons at Milavittan (MVN) Wagon Depot by providing one skilled welder and one unskilled assistant for welder in each shift for a period of two years.
2.	GeM Bid No.	GEM/2025/B/7011485 Dt : 18.12.2025
3.	Place of work	Milavittan
4.	Value of the work	Rs. 45,53,822.55/- (including GST @ 18%)
5.	EMD (Rs.)	Rs. 91,080/-
6.	Tender closing date	11.00 hrs 08.01.2026

Note : It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at **"http://www.gem.gov.in".**

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Madurai

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Lecture: Endowment lecture on 'The contemporary relevance of Raja Ram Mohun Roy's thoughts' by JB Janardana; Gandhi Shanti Pratishtana, Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi; Kumara Park East; 10.30 am.

Inauguration of Pralaksha Hospital: Nirmalanandanatha Swami, Vinay Guruji, G Parameshwara, Ramalinga Reddy, R Ashoka and M Krishnappa to attend; Uttarahalli Main Road; 10.30 am.

'Nudi Namana' to Shamanur Shivashankarappa: Shivamurthy Shivacharya Swamiji, Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, Siddhaling Swamiji, Eshwar Khandre to attend; Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha; Taralabalu Kendra Auditorium, RT Nagar; 11 am.

Inauguration of Mentora IAS: Priya Krishna, M Krishnappa,Pradeep Krishna, Dharmendra Kumar to attend; Chandra Layout 1st Stage; 11 am.

Foundation Stone Laying and Bhoomi Pooja for Mini Theatre: Dr CN Manjunath, Muniratna and Chittaranjan Tripathi to attend; National School of Drama, Mallathahalli; 6.30 pm

CULTURAL

'Bhava Jhenkara' – Melodies of Emotive Songs: Award: Mrutyunjaya Doddawad; Presented by: C Somashekhar; Book release: 'Bhavakogile' by BR Lakshman Rao; Visual song release: 'Binka Bida Binnana Gitti' by Shubha Dhananjay; Sneha Balaga; Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Kumara Krupa Road; 5 pm.

School Annual Day: CN Ashwath Narayan, Gururaj Karajagi, Ravi Kumar Raju and Sangeetha Katti to attend; Vidya Samskruti School, Vyalikaval; 6 pm.

Play: 'Parameshi Prema Prasanga' by Rangavalli, Mysuru; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar 7.30 pm.

PROVISION OF FIBER OFC FOR COMMUNICATION BACKBONE

Tender No.: N_02_HQ-2025-26; **Dated:** 19-12-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Name of Work**: Provision of 4 x 48 fiber OFC for communication backbone in section Kamakhya-Guwahati-Lumding (191 RKM) of Lumding Division under HUN6 sections covered within sanctioned KAVACH territory. **Advertised Value:** ₹20,94,16,145.39/-; **Earnest Money**: ₹11,97,100/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **12:00** hrs. on **21-01-2026**. Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

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◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.6°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (Dec 24)	5:59 pm
Sunrise (Dec 25)	6:38 am
Moonrise	9:11 am
Moonset	8:53 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Bengaluru to get more air monitoring stations as pollution rises

BENGALURU, DHNS: To address rising concerns about air quality in the city, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is planning to increase the number of monitoring stations, including installing one in every ward.

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, who held a meeting with the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) on Tuesday, said monitoring air quality accurately was important.

"If we have more monitors, it will help us fetch some crucial data and also identify pollution hotspots. This will help us take up further measures," he said.

The data will help determine PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels, which indicate the severity of air pollution. Higher PM 10 levels could point to pollution caused by construction activity, and such data will help in making policy-level decisions, Rao said.

That apart, ahead of summer, the GBA is also working on identifying heat islands that could pose health risks to citizens.

"Extreme heat could cause health problems, and hence identifying heat islands is important. Once identified, we can take simple measures such as planting trees in those areas and installing shelters for rest. Such measures will help ease the situation to a great extent," Rao said.

Nigerian woman held with cocaine hidden in loaf of bread on Mumbai–Bengaluru bus

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has arrested a 29-year-old woman from Nigeria for smuggling cocaine from Mumbai to Bengaluru by travelling on a private bus.

A total of 121 grams of cocaine, estimated to be worth Rs 1.20 crore, and one mobile phone used for coordinating the drug trade were seized from her possession.

The suspect has been identified as Olajide Esther.

A senior police officer said that based on credible information, a special CCB team kept surveillance on her movements and intercepted her when she arrived in the city from Mumbai. During a search, police found cocaine concealed in a bread loaf, allegedly to avoid suspicion while transporting the contraband.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Esther had cut open the bread from the inside and stuffed cocaine packets inside before sealing it back carefully. She allegedly used this method to evade detection during travel.

Police said the suspect was actively involved in drug peddling and was supplying cocaine to customers in Bengaluru. She allegedly procured the drugs from Mumbai and transported them via private buses.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and further investigation is under way to trace her network and identify other links in the drug supply chain.

Drug peddlers from Kerala arrested

The Jalahalli police have arrested two drug peddlers from Kerala for allegedly trafficking narcotics in the city.

The arrested accused have been identified as Nijil Raj and Melvin.

Police said that based on a tip-off, they conducted an operation and apprehended the duo, who were allegedly transporting drugs from Kerala and selling them in Bengaluru.

During the arrest, police seized 247 grams of hydro ganja and 19 grams of MDMA (ecstasy), worth Rs 26 lakh, from their possession.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspects were actively involved in drug peddling, targeting youngsters in the city for New Year celebrations. Police are now probing the source of the contraband and trying to identify other members linked to the drug network.

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F&B biz gears up for busy year end

They are hiring additional bouncers, valet drivers, and service staff from agencies, colleges, and industry networks

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

A hospitality brand plans to hire 5 to 12 bouncers across its outlets, including on Church Street. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Star hotels, clubs and restaurants across Bengaluru have begun hiring additional staff to handle the festive rush around Christmas and New Year's Eve. The demand is largely for bouncers (including women bouncers), valet drivers, and service staff. In some instances, these temporary hires are being paid double the usual rate or more.

According to P C Rao, president of the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association, with very few marriage events this month, nearly 10,000 ODC (outdoor catering) boys who would otherwise be engaged at Palace Grounds are available for work. "Students from catering colleges are also roped in for service roles," he says.

Bouncer crunch

Security agencies say the demand for bouncers is exceeding supply this season. The booming F&B business, with new pubs, restaurants, and microbreweries opening every month, is one reason.

Agencies are, thus, sourcing personnel from Mysuru, Udupi, and Hassan, and states like Telangana and Tamil Nadu. "There are fewer than 1,000 professional bouncers in Bengaluru," says Raghul Chezhian, founder, Big Bruiser Bouncer, Vijayanagar. This December, he has been approached by a dozen F&B outlets seeking between eight and 20 bouncers each. "Pricing negotiations are going on. My bouncers are demanding Rs 500 more than last year," he says.

Agencies are also fielding "unusual" requests for personal bouncers from couples. But James Y, founder of Koramangala-based The Wild Gunman, has declined all 50 requests he got. In an inebriated state, some clients abuse bouncers, he reasons. James works with a fixed clientele of around 150 VVIP families. Many of them travel with bouncers during the holiday period, within India and abroad, to keep a watch on their children or valuables. Chezhian, too, declined one such request. While private gigs pay more (Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000 for a night, compared with about Rs 3,000 for F&B security), they do not include tips, which can add up significantly at restaurants, he explains.

No personal driver

However, valet providers such as Alive Pulse Parking Services, Kamakshipalya, have seen a 40% increase in demand since November. Drivers are charging Rs 1,400-Rs 1,800 for four hours of work, up from the usual Rs 900. "Five restaurants have confirmed a requirement for 2-3 drivers for New Year's Eve," says a representative. But the agency has declined requests for personal drivers. "Clients often leave pubs late, which affects valet drivers' earnings," he adds. Even Sridhar Reddy's Jayanagar-based Tirumala Services is not providing drivers for personal chauffeuring. However, the firm has bookings from about 30 hotels and restaurants, for five to 30 valet drivers each.

In contrast, Smartlens Parking Solutions, a J P Nagar-based agency tied up with about 40% of the city's restaurants, bars, and hotels, has not seen the customary year-end surge of 10-20%. "I don't know why," says area manager Raju T N.

Slump after Goa fire tragedy?

According to Ananth Narayan, head of the Bengaluru chapter of the National Restaurant Association of India, the Goa nightclub fire tragedy earlier this month, which claimed 25 lives, has hit the city's year-end pub scene. "We haven't seen the usual 20-30% surge this season," he says. He adds that additional safety measures issued by the Bengaluru police in the aftermath could further affect New Year's Eve business. "We have been told entry into the CBD area (a major NYE hotspot) will be closed by 6 pm," says Narayan, who owns four outlets on Brigade Road.

A liaisoning manager working with Byg Ventures, which owns four brands, says the police directive mandates a 1 am-closing-time instead of last year's 2 am, in addition to stricter limits on music volume, CCTV coverage with 30-day backups, arrangements for female bouncers, and extra drivers to escort inebriated patrons home.

Exposure for students

Beyond Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the seasonal spike in footfalls is driven by corporate parties, tourism, and family outings involving NRI relatives. This is also the period of school and college breaks. It fuels demand for additional service staff. Most hires are for floor roles (moving food from the kitchen to the servers, and clearing tables), managing entry points — not for kitchens and rarely for bars.

This month, Sachin Gowda, owner of Flairology Bar School and Events in Rajajinagar, received calls from 10-15 establishments seeking staff every weekend. He sends out current and former students, along with freelancers, for floor service and also bartending roles "because they are trained in the craft". "But demand during Christmas and the year-end is difficult to meet," he says. On Tuesday alone, he turned down requests from five hotels. Large outlets typically require 70-80 staff, he explains.

Chennais Amirta IIHM, a hotel management institute in R R Nagar, could not send students for Christmas owing to examinations but will do so for the New Year period. They usually send 200 students in December.

POPCORN

Jab we met

Lalit Modi and Vijay Mallya partied in London and put out a video, cheerfully describing themselves as the biggest fugitives of India. The Internet isn't sure whether their video is a jab aimed at the Indian authorities or just another reminder that the rich and famous always have fun, no matter what. Modi has been away since 2010, and Mallya since 2016. Is it true that when the bankers went to seize his villa, they found a board proclaiming 'HaNa Villa'? In other words, no money.

EVENTS

Book launch

Author Subhashini Kaligotla's anthology 'My Life Closed Twice' will be launched on December 28, 6.30 pm at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Entry free. For details, call 96325 10126.

Classical concert

'Kaleidoscope', a Hindustani classical concert, will be held at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on December 24, 7 pm. Entry free. RSVP at bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Comic play

Kannada comedy, 'Parameshi Prema Prasanga', will be staged at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar, on December 24, 7.30 pm. Tickets online.

NGO launches B'luru's first urban wildlife ambulance

TEAM METROLIFE

Praana Animal Foundation, a Bengaluru-based non-profit founded by actor Samyukta Hornad, has launched an urban wildlife ambulance aimed at strengthening animal rescue efforts across the city. The ambulance was inaugurated on Sunday by former cricketer and Karnataka's forest and wildlife ambassador Anil Kumble.

More than just a transport vehicle, the ambulance is a fully equipped, vet-on-board rescue unit designed to respond to animals in distress and help mitigate rising human-animal conflict in urban spaces. The idea emerged from Praana's on-ground experience rescuing wildlife across Bengaluru. "We needed a specialised vehicle to safely transport wildlife from rescue spots to care centres," said Aniruddha Ravindra, co-founder and co-director of the foundation.

Though launched on December 21, the 24-hour ambulance will be operational from January 1, 2026, with an average response time of 30 minutes. While the focus will be on south Bengaluru, the service will extend citywide and beyond when needed. Wildlife rescues will be free of cost.

Call helpline number 91088 19998.

This Urban Wildlife Ambulance is a fully equipped, vet-on-board rescue unit designed to respond to animals in distress in urban spaces.

Citizens' hands-on campaign to help trees absorb water

They hope to save Bengaluru trees choked by concrete and tar

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The group meets on Sundays, armed with tools to decongest sealed off trees.

A citizen group has started a campaign to save trees whose roots are choked by concrete.

The Trap Free Tree Campaign by Bengaluru Hudugaru was launched three weeks ago after one of its members had a sudden realisation.

"A conversation with my son drew my attention to the fact that thousands of trees in Bengaluru are not getting the nutrition they require because their base is covered in concrete or tar," says civic activist, Vinod Kartavya, the founder of the group.

After thorough research and speaking to a geologist, the group learnt that with minimal-to- zero percolation of water, rainwater fails to reach the roots of the trees. "This shortens their lifespan," Kartavya explains. The team also looked at the legal aspect of their action plan. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has mandated the Tree Plantation Labour Act of 1951. It states that there can be no concrete or tar within a one-metre radius of a tree. "This reduces soil erosion and helps maintain the health of the roots," he adds.

The Karnataka Forest Department too issued an order on June 18, 2025 based on the NGT's order, "but it is not being followed," Kartavya shares.

The 15-20 member group comprises teachers, businessmen and government employees. Through the campaign, the group has been 'deconcretising' two trees per week. They meet at 7 am on Sundays, armed with spades, shovels, picks and pry bars, and wrap up at around 9.30 am. "It takes 1 to 1.5 hours to remove the concrete from the base of each tree. We are not specialised in this. We stop digging as soon as we hit mud," he tells *Metrolife*.

The tree is chosen after a survey, conducted two to three days before the day of the work. They pick trees that are on the main road, and not in residential areas or on the footpath. "Sometimes home owners do it themselves to maximise parking space. One tree we worked on recently was being used as a seating area for a juice shop. The owner had covered the base in concrete and built a seating area around it," he recalls.

Over the past three Sundays, the group has 'freed' trees from R V Road-Minerva Circle, Malleswaram and Basaveshwaranagar. This week, they will be in action at Yeshwantpura, Kumaraswamy Layout or Rajajinagar. Since they started posting reels of their work on Instagram, Kartavya has been receiving at least 10 requests per day of trees in similar condition.

The group plans to submit a letter to the GBA to take this up as a serious issue. "Until then, we will continue our work," Kartavya states.

To get in touch, look up @bengaluru_hudugaru on Instagram.

B'luru's historic churches prepare for Christmas

Metrolife traces the history of the city's centuries-old churches

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

As Christmas approaches, Bengaluru's oldest and most iconic churches emerge as living landmarks, where midnight masses, carols, history, architecture, faith, and community traditions converge. *Metrolife* takes a look at its history and traditions.

St Mark's Cathedral

This M G Road church was established in 1808 as an Anglican garrison church for the East India Company's Madras Army. Its architecture is inspired by St Paul's Cathedral in London, featuring a dome, chancel, and Roman arches. A major fire in 1923 necessitated rebuilding it. Now part of the Church of South India (CSI), the cathedral is famous for its choral carols.

Two choral services are scheduled — December 24, 11.30 pm, and December 25, 9 am.

St Patrick's Church

Located near Brigade Road, the church was founded in the early 1840s. It was originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the archangel Michael under the name 'Church of the Assumption'. It became popularly known as St Patrick's (the patron saint of Ireland) Church because it was frequented by Irish soldiers stationed nearby. This year, the parishioners have created a large recyclable crib on the theme of 'hope'.

Christmas Eve mass at 11.45 pm, and Christmas Day mass at 6.15 am in Kannada, 7.30 am in Tamil and 8.45 am in English.

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

This 1866 church in Shivajinagar was built for Scottish regiments and features elements of Scottish Gothic architecture, such as red brick walls and stained-glass windows. It was initially called Martyrs' Church. It houses a well-preserved pipe organ from 1881.

Christmas Eve mass at 6.30 pm, and Christmas Day mass at 9 am. Both services will be livestreamed on standrewschurch.org.in

St Mary's Basilica

This 17th-century chapel in Shivajinagar was later consecrated in 1882 in the Gothic style. It is the first church in the state to be elevated to the status of a minor basilica. This year, a large fabric depicting the crib where Jesus was born has been installed.

St. Mary's Basilica was consecrated in 1882. DH PHOTO / B K JANARDHAN

Christmas Eve mass at 8 pm in English, 10 pm in Kannada, and 12 am in Tamil, and Christmas Day mass at 6 am in English, 7, 8 and 11 am in Tamil, and 9.30 am in Kannada.

East Parade Church

Located on M G Road, East Parade Church was built by Wesleyan Methodists in 1865. Named after East Parade Road near the historic Parade Ground, it served British soldiers outside the Anglican community and uniquely allowed rifles inside.

Now part of CSI, it hosts Malayalam, Tamil, and English services and is known for its distinctive artificial Christmas tree tradition.

For details about mass timings, call 99018 01555.

St Mark's Cathedral was established in 1808 as an Anglican garrison church for the East India Company's Madras Army. DH FILE PHOTO

Haadu you do! Kannada jamming picking up

Diverse crowds are singing popular film songs at cafes, community spaces, and parks

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Pavan Bhat led the inaugural session at eeKavii Kafe, J P Nagar, on December 17.

Kannada jamming sessions are gaining popularity across Bengaluru, with cafes and community groups hosting themed events.

Entry fees typically range from Rs 200 to Rs 500. Organisers say that the events attract people across age groups.

Weekends only

At Big Bean Cafe, Kannada jamming sessions are held at three of its six outlets: Jayanagar, HSR Layout and Koramangala. Jayanagar hosts sessions on Sundays, HSR Layout on Saturdays, and Koramangala holds them during special occasions.

Each two-hour session is led by the band 'Swarabharatha'. "Most songs are retro Kannada film numbers, with frequent requests for classics such as 'Endendu ninnanu maretu', 'Huttidare Kannada nadalli huttabeku' and 'Bombe helutaithe'," says marketing head Akshay Raj. The crowd varies by location — families at Jayanagar, IT professionals at HSR Layout and a college-going audience at Koramangala.

Such sessions have been held every Friday since October at Ibbanni Cafe, Rajarajeshwari Nagar. The alcohol-free sessions run for 90 to 120 minutes, says owner Soumya P.

Their song selections range from Dr Rajkumar classics to newer Kannada film hits. "We ensure we don't feature songs with inappropriate language," she adds. Entry is free.

Literature centric

At eeKavii Kafe in J P Nagar, Kannada jamming sessions have been introduced as part of the cafe's literature- and language-focused programming. Their inaugural session was held on December 17.

From January, sessions will be held every Wednesday and led by vocalist Pavan Bhat. "We wanted music to be an extension of our focus on Kannada literature. The repertoire will centre on janapada geethe, bhava geethe and devotional music, and is designed to suit all age groups," says Sneha Sundar, marketing head at eeKavii.

Sessions by groups

Swarapaana, founded by Sagar Simha, has been hosting 'jam shop' sessions, a blend of jamming and workshops, since June. Originating in Mysuru, the concept later expanded to Bengaluru.

Held on alternate Sundays at Basavanagudi's Bugle Rock, the sessions follow themes such as janapada songs and retro numbers. "Everyone learns and sings together. There are no age or skill barriers," says Simha.

Led by Simha, the sessions use lyric sheets marked with pauses and transitions. Most editions draw over 250 people, with the latest seeing around 700 participants.

'Litjam Kannada', curated by city-based community 'Do With Lit', has been hosting Kannada jamming sessions for over two years. Currently held once every three to four months, the sessions will shift to a bi-monthly format from 2026, says founder Vishwas K P.

Each session draws about 70 to 80 people, mainly young adults aged 25 to 35, along with families. "The sessions often feature popular requests like Sonu Nigam hits, 'Gaalipata' songs and Dr Rajkumar classics," he says.

To join

Follow @eekavii, @bigbeancafe.in, @ibbanni_cafe, @swarapaana_official, @do.with.lit on Instagram

Promoting basketball for the disabled

ANUSHA MARY JONES
TEAM METROLIFE

A chance visit to Kanteerava Stadium, where he noticed that states like Tamil Nadu had their own wheelchair basketball associations, inspired Lakshman Reddy to dream of starting one in Karnataka. Gradually, he found eight like-minded people. This year, the Karnataka State Wheelchair Basketball Association (KSWBA) completed 10 years.

The 39-year-old has two metal rods in his leg and relies on crutches. In 2006, a truck ran over him while he was waiting at the Majestic signal. He was returning from the sets of Puneeth Rajkumar's film 'Abhi', where he worked in the lighting department.

Lakshman Reddy is a treasurer with the Karnataka State Wheelchair Basketball Association.

It was a tough phase. He lost his job as an electrician and was bedridden for months, dependent on his mother and brother. "I felt hopeless and lost. That's when the Association of People with Disability (APD) entered my life," he says. Through APD's village-level programme, Reddy trained in horticulture in Bengaluru. Today, the Hennur resident works as a horticulture trainer and gardener with APD, and is also employed in its sales department.

It was during a visit to Kanteerava Stadium with APD that his love for basketball was rekindled. Seeing state-level wheelchair basketball associations playing, he felt Karnataka deserved similar opportunities. Tamil Nadu's association trained him at the stadium to explore the idea.

KSWBA has grown from nine members in its first year to around 17 players today. Reddy played for the team until three years ago and now serves as its treasurer.

Reddy says wheelchair basketball is among the few sports that can be played with relative ease by wheelchair users. In the early days, wheelchair basketball players working in APD made DIY hoops and played by the roadside until APD built a dedicated court in Jeevan Bhima Nagar.

He advises persons with disabilities to become independent. "Earn your own income, feed yourself, and take every opportunity for help that comes your way."

BJP holds silent protest against Hate Speech Bill

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the Bengaluru urban DC, seeking revocation of the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crime (Prevention) Bill, 2025, passed by the legislature recently.

The party held a 'silent protest' at the DC's office. Jayanagar MLA and president of party's Bengaluru district unit C K Ramamurthy said a party delegation comprising leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka and his counterpart in Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, state BJP chief B Y Vijayendra, would call on the Governor on Thursday, to urge him not to give assent to the bill.

"There will be demonstrations across districts. If this bill isn't repealed, our protest will continue," he said.

School teacher arrested for gold thefts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Basavanagudi police have arrested a 46-year-old woman who allegedly stole gold jewellery from wedding halls on weekends, while working as a school teacher on weekdays.

Police recovered the booty worth Rs 32 lakh.

Revathi, a native of Shivamogga and a resident of KR Puram, worked as a part-time Kannada teacher at a private school on weekdays. On Sundays, she would roam around the city, identifying wedding halls. Posing as a relative of the bride or groom, she would gain easy entry into marriage venues, interact with guests to avoid suspicion, and steal gold ornaments, police said.

Police said she was involved in at least three thefts. She claimed to have taken to stealing to raise money for her husband's surgery, police said.

DKS' lapses cost us 8-10 LS seats: Rajanna's letter to Rahul

Says he didn't pay attention in appointing booth agents

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Senior lawmaker K N Rajanna has told top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that the party could have won 8-10 more Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka had D K Shivakumar "paid proper attention" to "lapses" in the appointment of booth-level agents (BLA).

Rajanna's criticism of Shivakumar's performance as Karnataka Congress president figures in a November 17 letter to Rahul, which was leaked Tuesday.

This is being seen as a big escalation in the power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy Shivakumar. Rajanna is Siddaramaiah's loyalist.

The letter was Rajanna's attempt to explain himself after he was sacked as minister for publicly criticising the Congress' campaign against 'vote chori,' led by Rahul.

"The purpose of my statement is to emphasise that BLAs appointed by KPCC have not performed their responsibility [sic]," Rajanna stated.

"If our president (Shivakumar) and the officials (agents) concerned had paid proper attention to these lapses, they could have been prevented. In that case, Congress would likely have secured 8-10 additional seats in Karnataka," he wrote.

In other states too

Rajanna said Congress could have won 30-40 more seats in other states if "similar lapses" were avoided.

"In such a situation, Narendra Modi would not have become prime minister again," he said in the letter, adding that Rahul would have been PM.

Rajanna was fired from the Cabinet in August after almost ridiculing the 'vote chori' campaign.

"When were the voter lists prepared? They were prepared under our government. Were we all sleeping?," Rajanna had said.

Loyalty asserted

The letter also contained Rajanna's curriculum vitae and his assertion of loyalty to Congress and Nehru family.

Rajanna further had a paean of praise for Siddaramaiah.

"In recent times, under the leadership of Ahinda leader Siddaramaiah, Congress came to power in Karnataka in 2013 and 2023. Siddaramaiah has worked tirelessly to deliver justice to the poor and marginalised across all communities - SC, ST, OBC, minorities and other weaker sections," he wrote.

Senior Congress MLA and former minister K N Rajanna holds talks with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

CM will quit if Rahul asks: Rajanna

Former minister K N Rajanna said Tuesday that CM Siddaramaiah will resign "immediately" if Rahul Gandhi asks him to. "Otherwise, he will continue as CM," Rajanna said. He said this after talks with the CM. "Shivakumar is an aspirant like many others. It's just that others aren't expressing it," he said. "The high command should settle this confusion," he added.

Appointment sought

The letter concluded with Rajanna seeking action against "those who have misrepresented my words" and an appointment to meet with Rahul.

After writing the letter to Rahul, Rajanna met Shivakumar at least twice and held talks. On Tuesday evening, Rajanna met Siddaramaiah.

No comments, says KPCC chief

NEW DELHI, DHNS:

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, also the state Congress president, on Tuesday refused to comment on former minister K N Rajanna's letter to top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi 'over lapses in appointing booth-level agents in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections'.

"I am here on official work to meet union ministers and discuss pending issues of my departments. I don't want to answer questions on politics," he told reporters here.

Shivakumar said he had no plans to meet party leaders during his two-day stay in the national capital.

Separately, senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad told reporters that a committee headed by senior Congress leader and party's Central Election Authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry had already discussed reasons for the Congress' poor performance in the last Lok Sabha elections. "Party leaders from Karnataka also gave statements before the Mistry panel. It knows the reasons. The party's top brass is seized of the matter," he said.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"I am here on official work to meet union ministers and discuss pending issues of my departments. I don't want to answer questions on politics.

The senior leader said the appointment of booth-level agents for voters' list verification and 'vote chori' were two different issues.

Hariprasad held a meeting with Shivakumar, but said it had nothing to do with politics. "Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has said that the leadership issue is a local matter and that state leaders will resolve it among themselves. So, there should be an end to all confusion. All leaders should abide by Kharge's statement," he said.

COLD NO CONSTRAINT

Rowers practice on the cold waters of Ulsoor Lake amid dense haze in the early morning, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Ramalinga Reddy inspects govt guesthouses in Tirumala

BENGALURU, DHNS: Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy was in Tirumala on Tuesday to inspect three guesthouses and a convention centre built and maintained by the state government in the temple town.

BJP and JD(S) legislators had spoken about the guesthouses in Tirumala during the recently concluded Winter Session of the state legislature. Reddy was accompanied by officials of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board during his inspection.

"I have directed TTD officials to sort out all pending issues at the earliest," said the minister. Reddy also held a discussion with the Deputy Executive Officer of TTD on the lease of land at Tirumala, and spoke about the possibility of the state being provided alternative land - 30 cents - in lieu of the land taken by TTD.

Rural Leadership Awards presented

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Institution of Agricultural Technologists (IAT) and ICAR-KVK, Dakshina Kannada, in collaboration with Samanvaya Trust and Food Chain Campaign, celebrated National Farmer's Day 2025 on Tuesday.

The event, titled 'Krishikara Vandana Sambhrama - 2025', featured the presentation of the Rural Leadership and Agri Excellence Awards. Inaugurating the event, Minister for Agriculture N Cheluvarayaswamy emphasised the government's commitment to rural leadership. The event highlighted the contributions of two coastal Karnataka icons: Sathyanarayana Beleri and Harekala Hajabba.

Sathyanarayana Beleri, a Padma Shri awardee from Kasaragod, was recognised for conserving over 650 traditional paddy varieties. His work involves distributing rare seeds to farmers and universities nationwide without charge. His efforts have been integrated into school curricula in Kerala and recognised internationally.

Harekala Hajabba, also a Padma Shri recipient, was honoured for his selfless dedication to education. A former orange seller, Hajabba used his meager earnings and prize money to establish and expand a government school in Mangaluru. To date, his efforts have facilitated over Rs 1.5 crore in development for the school, which now serves nearly 200 students.

VACANCY AT STATION MEDICARE CENTRE HEAD QUARTERS TRAINING COMMAND (UNIT), AIR FORCE BANGALORE

Commanding Officer, Head Quarters Training Command (Unit), Air Force Bangalore, invites applications from eligible candidates (Female) For following vacancy for part time engagement for the period of three years

Sl.No	Post	No. of Vacancies	Qualification	Working Hours	Honorarium
01	Lady Medical officer	01	MBBS from recognised University, completion of compulsory rotating internship	0900-1300 Hrs (Monday to Saturday)	Rs,35,000/- per month

2) Interested candidates (Female) may submit their application along with bio-data, photocopy of required documents and experience certificate (if any), addressed to **Senior Medical** officer Head Quarters Training Command (Unit), Air Force Bangalore, JC Nagar Post, Hebbal, Bangalore-560006 by hand/ Registered post **before 31 December 2025. Any query please Contact- 97189 23544**

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SANDT/CON/HWH/TN/15/2025. Dated : 22.12.2025. Open Tender is invited through e-tendering procedure by Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer(Con), Eastern Railway, Howrah, 371, Telkal Ghat Road, Howrah-711101 from experienced Signaling & Telecommunication Contractors holding valid Contractor's license Partnership firm etc. with adequate financial capacity and sufficient experience for the following work : **Tender No. SANDT-CON-15-2025-HWH**; **Name of the Work :** "Electronic Interlocking Alteration work at Adisaptagram (Kyosan make) in connection with closure of Level crossing Gate No.-12 in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway." **Approx. Tender value (in Rs.) :** ₹ 42,01,230.00 **Cost of The Tender Document (in Rs.) :** 0.00; **Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.) :** ₹ 84,000/- to be deposited in favour of FA&CAO/Con/E.Rly. Kolkata; (i) Validity of Offer and Earnest money should be 60 days from date of Opening of Tender. (ii) **Date & Time of Closing of Tender :** 13.01.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. (iii) **Completion Period of the Work :** 06 (Six) months from the date of issue of LOA. The Tender Documents can be downloaded and bids can be submitted at **www.ireps.gov.in** after online payment of "Cost of Tender Document" and "Earnest Money" as mentioned above against this tender on or before the tender closing date and time mentioned above. Tenders complete in all respect and with all documents as stated above should be uploaded at **www.ireps.gov.in** against this tender. Bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. Tender Documents details of tender notice, corrigendum(s) issued from time to time (if any) and other basic information are available at **www.ireps.gov.in** Detail tender notice can also be seen in the notice board of Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Con, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 371, Telkal Ghat Road, Howrah - 711101.
CON-59/2025-26
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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17th BIFFes from Jan 29, over 200 films to be screened

Main venue shifted to Cinepolis at Lulu Mall; 400 screenings of over 200 films from 60 countries

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 17th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) will be held between January 29 and February 6. The theme for this year is likely to be centred on women empowerment, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced at a press conference on Tuesday.

The opening ceremony will take place at the Vidhana Soudha. The event will be inaugurated by the chief minister alongside his deputy D K Shivakumar. Veteran actor Prakash Raj, who is the edition's brand ambassador, will also be present.

New venue

This year, the main venue for the screenings will be Cinepolis at Lulu Mall in Rajajinagar, where 11 screens will host the 400 scheduled screenings. For the past nine years, BIFFes has been held at PVR Cinemas at Orion Mall in Rajajinagar. More space in Lulu Mall for academic activities and open-air screenings is the reason for the change in venue this year, said a well-placed source.

Additional screenings are slated for Dr Rajkumar Bhavana (Kalavidara Sangha) in Chamarajpet, and Suchitra Film Society in Banashankari.

The festivals this year will be held for nine days. Films will be screened from January 30 to February 6. There will be about 400 screenings of over 200 films from 60 countries. Critically acclaimed films from film festivals like Cannes, Venice and Toronto will be screened.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, actor Sadhu Kokila, Department of Information and Public Relations Commissioner Hemant Nimbalkar and others unveil the logo of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) on Tuesday. PHOTO/CMO

Andrzej Wajda retrospective

BIFFes this year will have a retrospective of acclaimed Polish filmmaker Andrzej Wajda, known for such iconic films as 'The Promised Land' (1975), 'The Maids of Wilko' (1979), 'Man of Iron' (1981) and 'Katyn' (2007). The year 2026 marks the auteur's birth centenary year.

Wajda's films explored Poland's political and social evolution and myths of Polish national identity. He made two colossal trilogies — War trilogy ('A Generation', 'Kanal' and 'Ashes and Diamonds') and 'Man of Marble', 'Man of Iron' and 'Walesa: Man of Hope' — that addressed agonies and plight of war in Poland and the growing romantic patriotism in the country. The Polish Cultural Centre based in New Delhi will collaborate with the FIAPF accredited festival.

Other international collaborations include Goethe Max Mueller Bhavan, Royal Thai Institute and Alliance Francaise. The French institute will also curate some of the best films from Africa.

Indian retrospective

BIFFes will also celebrate 50 years of cinematic journeys of film auteur Girish Kasaravalli and film veterans S V Rajendra Singh Babu and Jayamala. The 'Restored Classics' section will showcase iconic films from Vajreshwari Combines, recently restored by the NFDC-NFAI.

The festival will also pay homage to cinema veterans who died in 2025 — south Indian icon B Saroja Devi, Bollywood star Dharmendra and critically acclaimed cinematographer Shaji N Karun who worked in Malayalam films.

Some of the masterclasses and workshops will be live-streamed for the first time.

Delegate registration will begin on January 16 — Rs 800 for delegates and Rs 400 for students, senior citizens, and film society members and film professionals.

Saanvi debuts as singer in Sandalwood for dad Sudeep's film

BENGALURU, DHNS

The background score for Sudeep starrer Mark, releasing on Thursday and featuring a song by his daughter, was composed in record time.

"It took us just 20-25 days," said Ajaneesh Loknath, music composer with such big hits to his credit as Kantara, Kirik Party and Ulidavaru Kandante.

Saanvi, Sudeep's daughter, is singing for the first time in Kannada films with Mark, directed by Vijay Kartiketyaa, who also directed the 2004 hit Max. The dance song, titled Mast malaika, features Saanvi and Nakash Aziz. She had earlier sung in English and Telugu. "I am thrilled that people like the song and are sharing it on social media," she said.

Saanvi Sudeep

Ajaneesh Loknath said he had composed music for Telugu film Virupaksha in just six days, but Mark, which called for an intense background score, was a record of sorts.

"Every film is a challenge. Every director's ideas are different. Compared to Max, Mark has a fast-paced script. The making and cast are also bigger. This film with a bigger canvas has become even more 'massy'," he said, adding that he had composed 17 to 20 themes for it.

A pre-release event in Hubballi last Saturday drew huge crowds. The film hits screens on December 25.

Office of the Executive Engineer
P.W.D. (Maintenance) Division No. 2 Bhopal

Tender Notice

NIT 28 of 2025-26 **Bhopal, Date 04-12-2025**

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal **www.mptenders.gov.in** Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In lack)
1	2	3	4	5
1	2025_PWDRB_466104_1	Construction of Road from Barodi to Semra Kala Road Length 3.350 Km.	Second	345.79
2	2025_PWDRB_466105_1	Strengthening of Road from Badli to Barkhedi Dev Road Length 7.100 Km.	Second	478.77
3	2025_PWDRB_466106_1	Renewal work of roads Gandhi nagar to Dobra Road and Asharam Bapu Choraha to Acharpura Road, Bhopal (Total length 9.60 KM)	Second	446.63
4	2025_PWDRB_466110 _1	Renewal work of roads Tarasewaniya to Chandu khedi Road, NH 12 to Berkheda Bonder Forensic lab Road and Beenapur, matabedri, Devpur Shapur Road, Bhopal (Total length 11.20 KM)	Second	371.94
5	2025_PWDRB_466112_1	Improvement For Black Spot and left Turn on Gandhi Park Tirana, Left Turn Jyoti Tokiz Squar Near Chetak Bridge, Left Turn Mandakni (Ahinsa Chowke Squar Kolar Road), Neheru Nagar Square Main Road No.-3 and P N T Left Turn, Nehru Nagar to Chuna Bhatti Road Black Spot and Left Turn, PHQ Tirana, Shabban Squar, kaali Mandir Tirana (Talaia Thana), Manisha Market Tiraha Prashasan Acedemy Left Turn	Fourth	204.75
6	2025_PWDRB_466113_1	MOW Work of Residentail Bunglow No.B-10,B-21,B-9 Under Section No.2 Survey Sub Dn. Bhopal	Second	60.00

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase and Submition of Document on line is **29-12-2025** up to 17:30 PM. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD (Maint.) Division No. 2 Bhopal

G-23245/25

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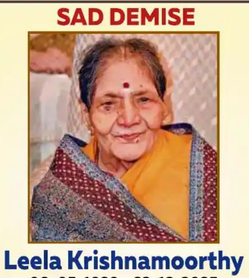
With love from her husband, children, siblings and grandchildren.

In loving memory of

Chinnamma Stephen
August 19, 1942 - December-22, 2025
Beloved wife, mother and grandmother
"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours"
revelation 14:13

SAD DEMISE



Leela Krishnamoorthy
08-05-1929 - 23-12-2025
With all our love
Daughter, grandchildren, great grandchildren and family.

SAD DEMISE

Smt. JAYALAKSHMI R.M
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May her kind soul be blessed with everlasting peace
Family and Friends
Contact : 9945194193 , 7760982089

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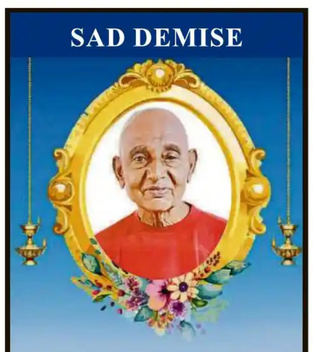

K V Lakshman
S/o K T Venkatappa
Left for heavenly abode on
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Final Rites : 24.12.2025
Family crematorium: K R Puram

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Brahmo Samaj Leader & Gandhian
W. H. Hanumanthappa
1885 - 1977

W. H. Hanumanthappa Memorial Endowment Lecture on "Relevance of Raja Rammohan Roy's Thoughts" by Dr. J. B. Janardhana
Head, Humanities and Social Sciences
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at Bapu Hall, Ground Floor, Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Park East, Bengaluru-560 001
under the aegies of
Gandhi Peace Foundation
All are cordially invited
- Wooday Family

3 blackbucks found dead with bullet injury

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS: Three blackbucks were found dead with bullet injury following a gun fire near Kallenahalli village in Kadur taluk of Chikkamagaluru district on Tuesday.

The carcasses were found in private agricultural land adjoining the Basur Amruth Mahal Kaval Blackbuck Conservation Reserve. According to forest officials, the dead animals included two females and aged between one-and-a-half and two years. Acting on information provided by local residents, forest department officials rushed to the spot and conducted an inspection. Signs of gunfire and tyre marks indicating vehicle movement were found at the location where the carcasses were discovered.

Post-mortem examinations have been conducted and samples collected for further tests. A case has been registered under the Wildlife Protection Act, said Deputy Conservator of Forests Ramesh Babu. Environmentalists suspect that the blackbucks may have fallen victim to poachers' gunfire. They believe the poachers might have taken away the bigger animals and left the fawns behind. They have urged forest officials to conduct a thorough investigation and arrest the poachers.

A man seen trapped in the cage laid to rescue a leopard at Gangawadi village in Chamarajanagar taluk on Tuesday.
DH PHOTO

Man gets trapped in cage laid to rescue leopard

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS: An incident of a man getting trapped in a cage laid by the Forest department to rescue a leopard was reported from Gangawadi village in Chamarajanagar taluk on Tuesday.

Following leopard menace at Gangawadi and the surrounding villages, the Forest department officials placed a cage with automatic lock system on the land belonging to Rudra. A person by name Katti, out of enthusiasm, entered the cage and it got locked automatically. As it was an isolated place, nobody could hear him shouting for help. His efforts to open the cage failed, and he had to be in the cage for around three hours. Later, farmers from nearby lands came to his rescue and released him.

Kumaraswamy urges rly min for B'luru-Madgaon Vande Bharat via Hassan, M'luru

NEW DELHI,D HNS: Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday urged Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to start a Vande Bharat Express between Bengaluru and Madgaon (Goa) via Hassan, Mangaluru, Udupi and Karwar, citing completed electrification & rising demand to boost coastal connectivity, tourism and regional growth.

With the successful completion of electrification across the Western Ghat section between Sakleshpur and Subramanya Road, the route is now operationally well-positioned for the introduction of a Vande Bharat Express service. Bengaluru-Madgaon via Hassan, Mangaluru Junction, Udupi, and Karwar, corridor serves a large and diverse passenger base, including travellers for tourism, pilgrimage, education and professional engagements, the JD(S) leader said in a letter.

Enhanced connectivity along this route would significantly strengthen the link between Bengaluru, the IT capital of India, and major commercial, port and tourism centres of coastal Karnataka and Goa, he said.

Kumaraswamy requested the railway minister to direct South Western Railway authorities to examine its feasibility and take appropriate action.

"The introduction of this service will address growing passenger demand, promote regional economic activity, boost tourism and further inter-state connectivity - fully aligned with the government's vision of an integrated, efficient and modern rail network," the former chief minister said.

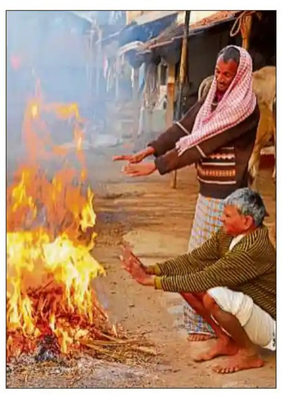
Belagavi in grip of cold wave

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Cold wave-like condition is being witnessed in Belagavi city and district with temperature falling in the month of December.

Belagavi city has recorded temperature as low as 8.2 degrees on December 12, while it was 5.5 degrees in the first week of the month in Hukkeri taluk which is the lowest in the recent years.

Falling temperatures have resulted in people, particularly senior citizens, avoiding morning and evening walks. Post evening traffic too has come down with people confining themselves to homes to stay warm.

The lowest temperature recorded in the city was 6.4 degrees on January 22, 1984 and 7.2 degrees on January 16, 2012.



While the temperature falls from evening hours to next day dawn, they pick up during the noon hours.

The average temperature during the month of November remained between 11 degrees and 12 degrees, while in December it is near same or little low. Since the commencement of winter season, temperature in the city and district were near the average, but began to fall in the last week of November. December, however, has been witnessing cold wave-like condition with cool breeze blowing even during the day and average highest temperature hovering at 27 degrees.

Many fear that the minimum temperature could further fall as the winter season progresses as there was history of low temperature in the month of January, which is just a few days away.

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Applications are invited from eligible candidates to fill the following vacant Assistant Teacher Post as per the permission by the Director, Office of the Commissioner for public instructions. No.C8(5)SHA. SHI. Aa. KHA. HU.BHA.1897534/2025-26, dated: 14-11-2025.

Serial No.	Job Description	Educational Qualification	Reservation	Number of Posts	Salary
1.	English	BA/MA,	Minority Institution. Reservation does not apply	01	54215-99400

Eligible candidates should apply to the following address within 21 days from the date of the advertisement with complete self-attested certificates regarding educational qualifications. A copy of the application to the Deputy Director for Public instruction, Bangalore North District, K.G. Road, Bangalore. Rs.1000/- (One Thousand Only) Demand Draft in favour of Sofiaya Education Society. Eligible candidates will be invited for interview by register post. In-complete applications and received after due date will be rejected without intimation.
Date: 24-12-2025 Secretary/President
Place : Bangalore Sophia Kannada High School, K.G. Halli, Bangalore-560045.

THE MYSORE EDUCATION SOCIETY
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Applications are invited for the post of teaching faculty for the following departments in MES College of Arts, Commerce & Science, 15th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru- 560 003

Administrator for Mysore Education Society:
Essential Qualification: (i) Post-graduate in relevant discipline from a recognized university with a minimum of 55% marks or equivalent grade. (Preferably MBA)
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I MES College of Arts, Commerce & Science
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Experience: Teaching experience of minimum 12 years.
Desirable: NET/SLET qualification, Research Publications, Funded Projects, Post-doctoral experience, knowledge of computer applications, usage of ICT in teaching

B. Associate Professor (Full Time):
Subject: Computer Applications/Commerce
Essential Qualification: (i) Post-graduate in relevant discipline from a recognized university with a minimum of 55% marks or equivalent grade (ii) Should have Ph.D. degree from a recognized university by UGC in the relevant subject (with course work included as part of doctoral program).
Experience: Teaching experience of minimum 8 years.
Desirable: NET/SLET qualification, Research Publications, Funded Projects, Post-doctoral experience, knowledge of computer applications, usage of ICT in teaching.

II MES College of ACS and MES Institute of Management
C. Assistant Professor (Full Time):
Subject:English/Journalism/Psychology/Mathematics/Chemistry/ ComputerApplications/ Commerce/ Management
Essential Qualification: (i) Post-graduate in relevant discipline from a recognized university with a minimum of 55% marks or equivalent grade (ii) with NET/SLET examination or Ph.D. degree from a recognized university by UGC in the relevant subject. (with course work included as part of doctoral program).
Desirable: (i) 3 years of teaching experience (ii) Knowledge of Computers. Usage of ICT in teaching.

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Desirable: (i) 3 years of teaching experience (ii) Knowledge of Computers. Usage of ICT in teaching.

1. Attractive salary commensurates with qualification & experience.
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3. Decision of the selection committee is final.
4. Resorting to any sort of influence will be deemed as a disqualification of the candidature.
5. Download the application form from the MES website: https://mesinstitutions.in

Advt. No. MES/19-3/ADM-1/2025 Dated 21.12.2025 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dr. Sri. Sri. Sri. Shivakumara Mahaswamy College of Engineering & Polytechnic
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, MEENAKSHI SANJAY JEGARKAL residing at Bengaluru-96 have changed my name as MEENAKSHI JEGARKAL, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, PRABHAKARA NARAYANAPPA, residing at Tamaka Village and Post, Kolar Taluk, 563101, have changed my name to PRABHAKAR NARAYANAPPA, vide affidavit dated 22.12.2025 before Notary K.H. Venkatappa, Chickaballapur.

I, DINDUKURTHI SOWMYA, residing at Srinivasa Nilaya, NR Extension, beside Vasavi Choultry, Chintamani 563125, have changed my name to SOWMYA ANKITH, vide affidavit dated 22.12.2025 before Notary K.H. Venkatappa, Chickaballapur.

I, SONU SURANA resident of No.9, 2nd Cross, Mission Road, Near Mani Motor Driving School, Bangalore-560027 have changed my name to SONIYA BHANDARI vide affidavit 17/12/2025 sworn before notary S.Jayanna, Bangalore

Lost

LOST OF DOCUMENT
I, **C.K. Prasad Raya Rawath** S/o C.V. Krishnamurthy R/a #65, 7th cross, Akshayanagar Bangalore-68. have lost of propertie original Document. **Sale Deed Date: 26.12.2012, No: HSK-1-02464-2012-13** and **GPA Dated: 28/12/2013, No: HSK-4-00463-2012-13.** Lost on 10.12.2025 at Jayanagar 5th block. Lost Report **(FIR) No. 1969674/2025** Dated: 22/12/2025. If anybody found above Documents please call: **9632323229** or nearby police station.

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Antibiotics in 10 min: Q-com apps bypass prescription, doctors concerned

Permission not required for apps, says drugs control dept

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Quick-commerce platforms like Blinkit, Swiggy, Instamart and recently Zepto are delivering medicines, especially antibiotics, without valid prescriptions.

They facilitate online consultations by doctors hired by third-party agencies. The doctors prescribe antibiotics for something as simple as common cold.

For certain tablets, a note saying 'prescription required' is displayed followed by 'Don't have a prescription? Our doctor will provide a quick consultation after ordering'.

The model is followed by Swiggy, Instamart and Zepto.

This *DH* reporter ordered an antibiotic for which prescription was needed and received a phone call from a doctor.

The doctor asked for basic details like name, age and symptoms and approved a prescription for Azithromycin. The symptoms that were mentioned were only cough and cold.

However, Azithromycin is prescribed when one is diagnosed with viral infection and there is a strain of yellow in phlegm, said Dr Balakrishna G K, HoD and senior consultant, internal medicine at a private hospital.

'Wrong diagnosis'

"Blood pressure and sugar level can be tested by the patient itself, so follow-ups can be done online. But we make sure that all boxes are ticked and very carefully prescribe antibiotics during online consultation".

In the prescription by a quick-commerce app, the doctor mentioned the diagnosis as fever without confirming with the caller.

He mentioned about allergies and ongoing medicine as none, without confirming with the caller.

Online pharmacies

Dr Suchismitha Rajamanya, lead consultant and HoD, internal medicine at a private hospital, said, "Taking antibiotics when infection is due to viruses and not because of bacteria will exacerbate antibiotic resistance".

However, Tata 1mg and Apollo Pharmacy, dedicated online pharmacies, follow other procedures in which patients have to upload valid prescription, a pharmacist checks prescription and if it is found invalid, prescription is rejected, as also the order.

A young diabetes patient said: "These apps can help people like me who travel around and are diagnosed with diabetes, by selling those tablets. This is because we can provide a valid prescription as well and they will save our time and life".

What dept says

A senior official from the drugs control department said these apps do not require permission from the department as they are only service providers and not stocking up medicine.

"They have tie-ups with pharmacies that will provide them the ordered medicine. They do not stock up," the officer added.

RUAS holds its 10th convocation

The 10th annual convocation of Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) was held Monday, marking a decade of academic excellence and achievement. As many as 2,095 degrees were conferred, including 50 PhDs, 698 postgraduate degrees and 1,347 undergraduate degrees. In recognition of outstanding academic performance, 107 medals were awarded to meritorious students.

Chief guest Prof Navakanta Bhat (fifth from left) with (left to right) RUAS' Registrar S Ashok Rao, Associate Dean - Research & Innovation Dr B S Nanda Kumar, Controller of Exams Dr A G Prathab, Vice Chancellor Dr Kuldeep Kumar Raina, Chancellor Dr M R Jayaram, members of Board of Governors M R Sampangi Ramaiah and Dr A Sivathanu Pillai, and Joint Registrar Dr T Hemanth, at the 10th annual convocation.

Internet revolution

The chief guest Prof Navakant Bhat, Dean, Division of Multidisciplinary Sciences and Professor, Centre for Nano Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), addressed the gathering. He observed that this generation has grown up with smartphones, Internet, social media, digital banking and advanced technologies. "In the year 2000, less than five per cent of the world's population had access to Internet, while in India it was less than half per cent - approximately one in 200 people. Today, nearly 70 out of 100 people enjoy high-quality Internet connectivity, reflecting the scale of the digital transformation", he said. Calling on graduates to act as agents of change, Prof Bhat said, "The next 25 years offer a unique opportunity to shape a new India and a new global order". He highlighted the supportive ecosystem in the country with both central and state governments launching major initiatives in science, technology and innovation, which are expected to drive inclusive economic growth over the next two decades. "By 2028, India is expected to surpass Japan and Germany to become the world's third-largest economy", he said.

Presiding over the ceremony, Dr M R Jayaram, Chancellor, RUAS, congratulated the graduates. "The degree is not merely an academic credential but a symbol of a meaningful journey marked by purpose, ambition and limitless potential", he said. The future belongs to those who think differently, he said, urging graduates to act wisely and make impactful contributions to society. Expressing confidence in the graduates, he said the students stepping out this year will succeed in transforming lives and creating a significant societal impact on global platforms. He encouraged them to remain passionate, knowledgeable and strong leaders, contributing to a bright and sustainable future.

Kuldeep Kumar Raina, Vice Chancellor, RUAS, said the 10th convocation is a moment of immense pride and joy for the university. Congratulating the degree and medal recipients, he noted that the university has now awarded degrees to over 11,000 creative minds, and the current graduates are proud additions to this legacy. "The graduates are well-prepared to make meaningful and high-quality contributions to society, and move forward with innovation and integrity", he said. He thanked parents, graduates, academicians, corporate leaders and society at large for the trust placed in RUAS.

Looking ahead, he reaffirmed RUAS's commitment to strengthening its position as a future-ready institution, fostering a globally competitive faculty ecosystem, ensuring high-quality education aligned with international standards, emphasizing skill development and industry-driven curricula, nurturing a strong research culture, promoting innovation and actively encouraging entrepreneurship to empower students as job creators and future leaders.

Curated by DH Brandspot

DKS calls on Khattar, seeks nod for key B'luru projects

NEW DELHI, DHNS

DCM D K Shivakumar

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, also Bengaluru development minister, on Tuesday called on Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar here and urged him to clear pending key urban development projects in Bengaluru, including revised estimated cost of Namma Metro phase-2.

"The estimated completion cost of Namma Metro phase-2 project has increased from Rs 26,405.14 crore to Rs 40,425.02 crore. The revised cost has been approved by the state government and sent to union ministry of housing and urban affairs on June 9. Request for early approval by the ministry for the same," said a memorandum to Khattar.

The DCM also sought early approval for Namma Metro phase-3A.

"Phase-3A (36.59 km) is planned from Sarjapura to Hebbal with 28 stations (elevated section length 22.14 km and underground section length 14.45 km) at an estimated cost of Rs 28,405 crore. The state government has sent a detailed project report to the ministry and is waiting for approval," the memo said.

Shivakumar also sought the minister's support for the regional rapid transit system (RRTS) for Bengaluru region and approval for the project on treatment and disposal of legacy leachate at Mittaganahalli landfill in Bengaluru.

HC refuses to stay bribery case against information commissioner

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash Lokayukta police proceedings against a former information commissioner in a bribery case.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum noted that call records, voice recording and money transfers, taken cumulatively, prima facie justify continuation of investigation.

The investigation against Ravindra Gurunath Dhakappa pertained to the period when he was posted as information commissioner at the state information commission's Kalaburagi bench.

On March 27, 2025, an RTI activist and journalist based in Kalaburagi, filed a complaint with the Lokayukta police, alleging that Ravindra had been demanding illegal gratification in connection with the disposal of certain RTI appeals. The complainant stated that he had filed many RTI applications, several of which culminated in appeals pending before the Information Commission.

Of these appeals, 117 applications were rejected by the state information commissioner on February 12, 2025, and his name was included in the blacklist. According to the complainant, Ravindra had issued a notice asking him to appear on March 25, 2025, in connection with the fresh appeals.

During this meeting, Ravindra demanded Rs 3 lakh for extending legal help and said that the amount be transferred to the bank account of one Sai Harsha, who is connected to Ravindra.

Upon filing the complaint, the Lokayukta police handed the complainant a voice recorder. The Lokayukta police laid pre-trap proceedings and directed the complainant to transfer Rs 1 lakh to Sai Harsha. The Lokayukta police arrested Ravindra and the investigation is underway.

Challenging this, Ravindra contended that it was a mistaken transfer and the amount was immediately returned to the complainant within three minutes by PhonePe . He further argued that non-registration of FIR before the Lokayukta handed over the voice recorder cast serious doubts on the genuineness of the complaint.

On the other hand, the Lokayukta police submitted that the call detail records reveal that the petitioner and the complainant were in telephonic communication on multiple occasions and the conversations lasted close to 9 minutes across several separate calls. In one such call, the petitioner reiterated the need to transfer "at least Rs 1 lakh", they said.

The court noted that the timing of the calls coincided with the dates of alleged demand and the subsequent transfer of money. Whether the conversation constitutes a demand for undue advantage, whether the money was transferred by mistake, or whether the complainant acted out of malice are all matters for trial, the court said.

"Upon careful examination of the material on record and the legal position, this court is of the considered view that the FIR discloses a cognizable offence. The petitioner's defences require appreciation of evidence and cannot be looked into in a petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. The call records, voice recording, and transfer of money, taken cumulatively, prima facie justify continuation of investigation," Justice Magadum said.

Drug racket busted: 4 held in Davangere

DAVANGERE, DHNS: The Vidyanagar police have busted a network that was supplying drugs to Davangere from Rajasthan and arrested four people, including land developer Shamanur Vedamurthy. Drugs worth Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 lakh cash have been seized from the accused.

Ram Swaroop (33) and Dholaram (36), from Jodhpur taluk in Rajasthan, and Devakishan (35) of Siddhaveerappa Layout in Davangere city, have been arrested, while three others are absconding. Besides, 200 grams of opium and 90 grams of MDMA have been seized from the accused.

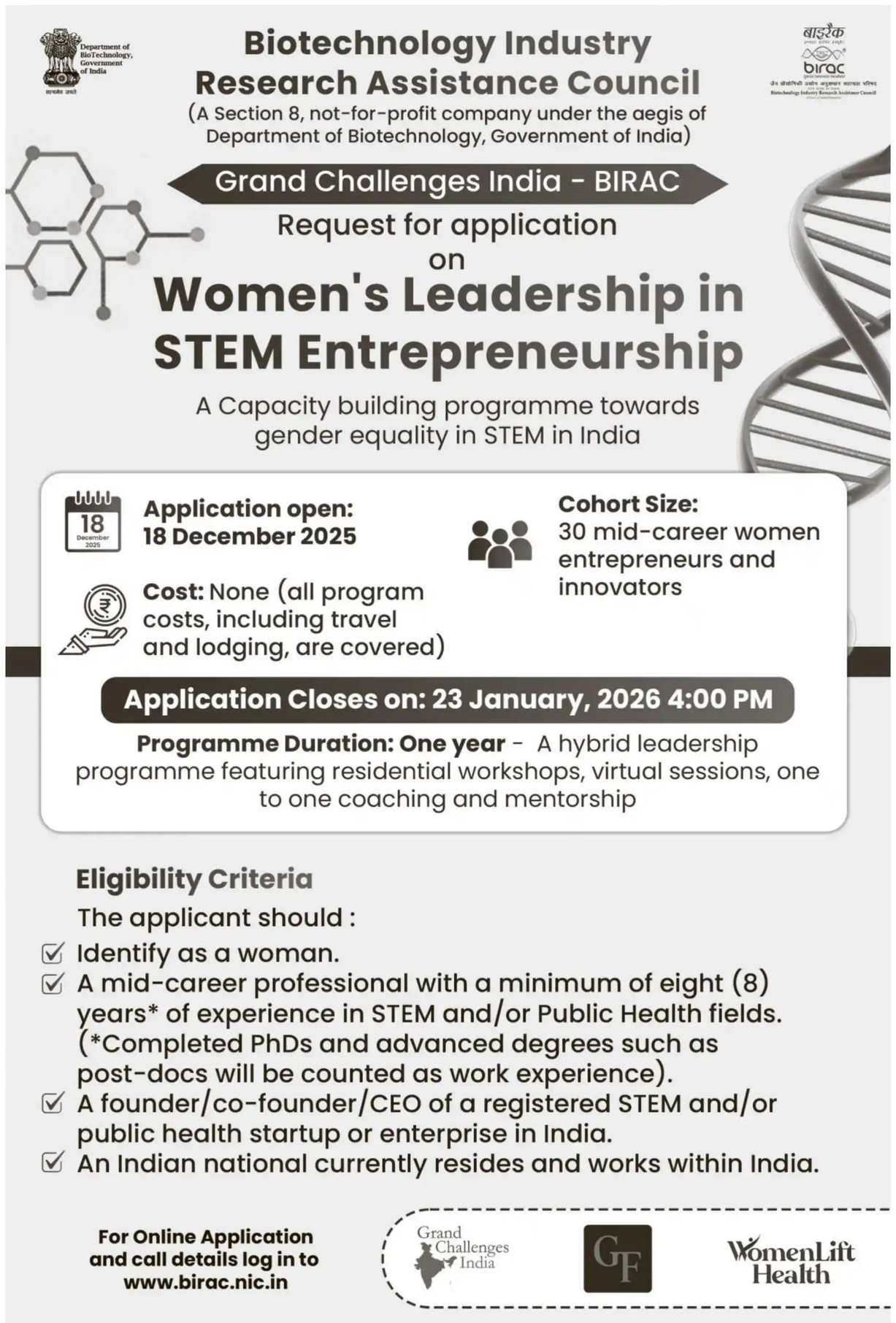
Based on a specific tip-off that drugs was being supplied, the Vidyanagar police raided a park at JH Patel Layout of the city on Monday. The accused were arrested, interrogated and remanded in judicial custody.

Several cases have been registered against Ram Swaroop in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and the Arms Act, 1959, which have been revealed through investigation.

Speaking to media persons, Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth said that there was an information that Vedamurthy and others were supplying drugs coming from Rajasthan to Davangere. What are the roles of each accused? Who else is in the network? will be revealed through investigation, she added.

Vedamurthy and Devakishan used to buy drugs from peddlers in Rajasthan for Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,000 per gram. Police sources said that they used to sell it to rich people.

After the formation of the Narcotics Control Unit, 8 cases have been registered in connection with drug trafficking and 24 people have been arrested, the SP said.



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No. SDUAHER/KLR/ADMN/4492/2025-26 Date 18.12.2025

WALK-IN INTERVIEW – RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education & Research/R.L. Jalappa Hospital and Research Centre
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Sl. No.	Position	Qualification / Eligibility
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4	Medical Imaging Lecturer (Allied Health Sciences)	M.Sc. Imaging Technology (minimum 55%).
5.	Cardiac Perfusionist (Allied Health Sciences)	M.Sc. Cardiac Perfusion Technology (minimum 55%).
6.	Accountant	B.Com, M.Com /Pass out of I/IInd part of CA/minmum 2yrs experience

Eligible candidates may walk in with an updated resume and copies of certificates or send their applications with documents supporting eligibility, experience, and publications to:

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ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
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ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: mddbcdc@gmail.com, Web : www.dbcdc.karnataka.gov.in

DBCDC/AD/2025-26/07/SE0003 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

Supply of Four-Wheeled Electric Food Kiosk Vehicles (EVs) under the Food Channel (Kiosk) Scheme of the Government of Karnataka, implemented through D. Devaraja Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited (DBCDC) ಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ದೂ.080–22374832, 22374834.

1) ಇ–ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.01.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.01.2026ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.01.2026ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4642/2025–26

Dulquer Salmaan is brand ambassador of Jos Alukkas

One of India's most trusted jewellery houses for over six decades, Jos Alukkas, signed up actor Dulquer Salmaan as brand ambassador. The association brings together a brand deeply rooted in craftsmanship and innovation with one of south India's most celebrated stars.

As brand ambassador, Dulquer Salmaan will feature across Jos Alukkas' upcoming campaigns, lending his presence to a narrative that celebrates jewellery as an expression of personal style, emotion and continuity.

Varghese Alukkas, Managing Director, Jos Alukkas said, "Our growth has always been anchored in raising standards and earning trust the right way. Our early adoption of 916 BIS hallmarked gold, well before it became an industry norm, reflects that approach. Dulquer Salmaan's journey shows a similar clarity in choices and an attention to detail that aligns with how we have built the brand over time."

Actor and brand ambassador Dulquer Salmaan (second from left) with Jos Alukkas' managing directors (left to right) Varghese Alukkas, John Alukkas and Paul Alukkas.

DH Jos Alukkas

Paul Alukkas, Managing Director, Jos Alukkas, said, "This association comes at a time when we are expanding our presence and speaking to a wider, more contemporary audience. Dulquer connects naturally across age groups and regions, much like our own customer base".

John Alukkas, Managing Director, Jos Alukkas, said, "There is a certain ease and refinement in how Dulquer carries himself, both on screen and beyond. That understated confidence aligns well with the direction Jos Alukkas is taking today, where design, craftsmanship and emotion are allowed to speak for themselves."

Dulquer Salmaan, said, "Jos Alukkas understands the role jewellery plays in family moments and personal milestones. What makes this association meaningful for me is the way the brand respects tradition while continuing to evolve with changing tastes and lifestyles."

Curated by DH Brandspot

Centre accused of statistical jugglery on Aravalli protection

The hill ranges shelter 22 wildlife sanctuaries

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Notwithstanding the assurances given by the Union Environment Ministry on its protection, questions are being raised on the new definition of Aravalli.

Critics claim that a large part of the hill and range may not get the protection if mining permissions are given on the basis of the new definition accepted by the Supreme Court.

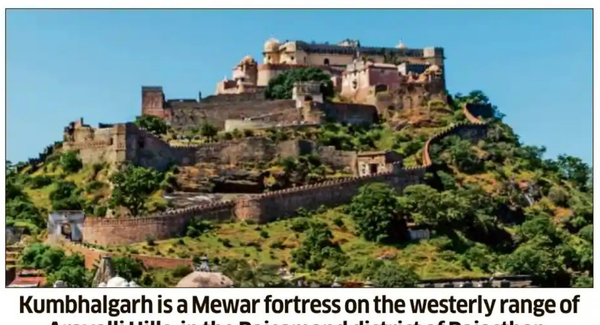
While senior Congress leader and former environment minister Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said he would be filing a petition in the SC in January, former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot said the Centre was indulging in statistical jugglery to mislead people.

According to the new definition accepted by the apex court, any landform rising 100 mt from the surrounding terrain will be counted as Aravalli hill. Two such hills at a distance of 500 mt and the land between the two, will be Aravalli range.

Environmentalists said such a definition by height would remove the protection on smaller scrub-covered hillocks, opening them to mining. The Forest Survey of India's own analysis suggests "gentle terrain" in 23 Aravalli districts.

"The FSI should officially release the data on (i) the number of hills as per the FSI definition, (ii) the number of hills as per the 100 m definition and (iii) the area of Aravallis under both definitions," Chetan Agarwal, an independent forest and environment services analyst told *DH*.

"FSI may release the data for 15 Rajasthan districts for which it has already digitised the maps and contours for the report submitted to the Supreme Court," he said.


Kumbhalgarh is a Mewar fortress on the westerly range of Aravalli Hills, in the Rajsamand district of Rajasthan.

The Aravalli hills and ranges harbour rich biodiversity with 22 wildlife sanctuaries, four tiger reserves, the Keoladeo National Park along with wetlands, like Sultanpur, Sambhar, and aquifers.

The major portion of Aravalli is within the 15 districts of Rajasthan accounting for an area of 40,481 sq km, according to the FSI, while around 1,000 sq km is spread in seven districts of Haryana.

Though 37 districts have been described as Aravalli district by the Centre, hilly areas in the remaining ten districts – five each in Gujarat and Delhi - are marginal. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav claimed 1.44 lakh sq km area as Aravalli, but official data showed it was the total land mass of all the 37 Aravalli districts and not the hilly areas in those districts.

"The 1.44 lakh sq km figure is deceptive. It spans the entire landmass of the 34 Aravalli districts identified by the ministry in four states. This is the wrong denominator," Ramesh said.

Meanwhile, the Forest Survey of India on Tuesday categorically refuted claims that it had carried out any study saying that only 9% Aravalli is above 100 mt.

The Environment Ministry said no new mining lease would be given till the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education prepares the "Management Plans for Sustainable Mining" for each of the 37 districts.

Advance bail rejected, MLA faces arrest in murder case

BENGALURU, DHNS: A special court for trial of criminal cases involving elected representatives on Tuesday rejected the anticipatory bail application filed by BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in the Biklu Shiva murder case, dealing a major blow to the KR Pura legislator.

The special judge passed the order after hearing detailed arguments from both sides.

Basavaraj now faces arrest. He had approached the court seeking anticipatory bail in the history-sheeter's murder, being probed by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Special public prosecutor Ashok Naik, representing the CID, said the court took note of the evidence and sequence of events placed before it. "The court thoroughly examined the materials and arguments presented by the prosecution and rejected the anticipatory bail plea," he stated.

The CID has intensified efforts to trace the MLA following the court's order.

A senior CID officer said a lookout notice had been issued and special teams formed to trace the MLA.

Speaker mulls linking MLAs' attendance...

Attendance, From Page 1

For instance, the just-concluded Winter Session ran for 10 days, of which two days saw adjournments due to the demise of sitting members (HY Meti and Shamanur Shivashankarappa — both Congress MLAs).

Turuvekere JD(S) MLA MT Krishnappa said it would be a good move to link grants with floor attendance but preferred longer duration of sessions for better discussions.

"The session should run for at least 60 days a year. It used to happen earlier but it has been reduced now. Shouldn't the Budget Session run for at least a month? There should be scope for open debate," Krishnappa added.

Shivajinagar Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad concurred with Krishnappa.

"Everyone wants to speak about them, their constituency, constituents, state's development and so on. But the time is limited and the lack of interest [in participation] is because of lack of opportunities."

Pointing out the practical difficulties, Arshad said the usual option for MLAs to talk during the session is to get their question starred, or get a calling attention motion.

However, he said, the calling attention motions were sometimes held at odd hours, making it difficult for all to participate.

"Instead of having the session from morning to night, it's better to extend the session by a week or so," Arshad added.

While there's a view that increased participation of ministers will lead to more MLAs participating in debates, there's also an argument that debates are often centered around ministers, restricting the scope for ruling party MLAs to speak.

'Extra grants'

Instead of linking their grants with attendance, the MLAs attending the House regularly should be given extra grants (Rs 5 crore or so), BJP Tumkur Rural MLA Suresh Gowda suggested.

Gowda also emphasised that participating throughout the day is crucial, not just being present for a short while for attendance purposes.

"Chief minister, Leader of the Opposition and party presidents should attend sessions so that others will also follow suit."

B'desh diplomatic tensions ripple...

Bangladesh, From Page 1

DTC buses were parked as an obstacle to thwart the protesters' bid to reach the high commission.

A sea of banners and placards bobbed in the air, reading denunciatory messages against the Bangladesh government.

On December 18, Dipu Chandra Das, a 25-year-old garment factory worker, was lynched by a mob and his body set on fire over blasphemy in Baluka in Mymensingh.

"A Hindu man was brutally assaulted and killed. We request the government to take strict action against those who are behind the killing. We also demand that the Bangladesh police take strict action against those who are behind the killing," a protester said.

Angry protesters accused the Bangladesh authorities of failing to protect minorities and demanded strong diplomatic steps by India to ensure the safety of Hindus living in the neighbouring country.

Several protesters claimed that the agitation would not be limited to a single day and warned of a ratcheting up if their demands were not addressed.

Protest in Kolkata

Police resorted to baton charge to disperse the protesters after they breached barricades in their attempts to move closer to the Deputy High Commission office at Beckbagan in central Kolkata.

At least 12 protesters were arrested. Several protesters and police personnel sustained minor injuries in the clashes.

The march titled 'Hindu Hunkar Padayatra' was organised under Bongiyo Hindu Jagaran Mancha.'

Protest in Mumbai

In Mumbai, protesters staged a demonstration outside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission at Cuffe Parade and a dharna off the headquarters of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), the headquarters of Central Railway.

After the protests, police personnel shifted the protesters to Azad Maidan in south Mumbai.

KIRTAN ON THE MOVE

People from the Sikh community participate in a 'Nagar Kirtan' procession ahead of the 'Veer Bal Diwas', in Amritsar on Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

Setback for KSCA as cops say no...

KSCA, From Page 1

"KSCA respectfully acknowledges this position and places on record its sincere gratitude to the Government of Karnataka and understands that the decision on permission is linked to the implementation of the recommendations of the Justice D'Cunha Committee," the association said in a statement on Tuesday while expressing its gratitude to the government for actively considering its request for permission.

"The association looks forward to receiving the detailed inputs, observations and recommendations from the authorities forming part of the review committee and assures that all such recommendations will be implemented in a structured and time-bound manner. KSCA remains fully committed to implementing all practicable safety, security and infrastructure-related measures at the earliest."

After the KSCA approached the state government seeking permission to conduct matches without fans, a committee headed by Rao was constituted to assess the feasibility of hosting the matches.

Well-placed sources said officials from the Bengaluru police, Fire and Emergency Services Department, Public Works Department and GBA inspected the venue and conveyed their observations to Rao, who is required to submit a consolidated report to the government for further action.

Trade unions call all-India strike on Feb 12

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Ten central trade unions affiliated to the Opposition have called for a nationwide general strike on February 12 next year, demanding the repeal of four Labour Codes.

They warned that they would resort to multiple-day strikes if the government proceeds with framing rules for their implementation.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions — INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC — along with sectoral federations and associations, held here on Sunday. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has announced support.

The unions accused the government of attempting to build a "positive consensus" around the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

"But workers are determined to fight against the unilateral imposition by the government and get the Codes repealed," a joint statement said. The date will be formally ratified and a detailed plan of action finalised at the National Workers' Convention in Delhi on January 9.

"If government continues to pursue notification of rules under the Codes and does not repeal them, the unions will be compelled to launch strong actions, including multiple-day general strike, besides sectoral resistance actions," the statement said.

The unions also appealed to Opposition parties and various sections of society, especially youth and students, to support the strike to "save the basic rights of the working people and protect the democratic fabric" of the country.

Sources said a key issue to be highlighted would be fixed-term employment, which unions claim would destroy permanent jobs and social security. They alleged it would lead to erosion of constitutionally guaranteed reservation.

Adivasis, Dalits and backward communities would be among those most affected by the Codes, the unions claimed, adding that fixed-term employment would be extended to public sector as well.

The meeting also expressed "deep anguish" over the passage of the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill and the Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB-GRAM-G Bill.

The unions said the SHANTI Act permits private and foreign entities to enter "highly risky and hazardous" nuclear power generation without liability in case of disasters.

On the VB-GRAM-G Act, they said it replaces the rights-based rural employment guarantee with discretionary powers vested in the Centre, shifts the fiscal burden to states and bans implementation during the harvesting season, thereby ensuring cheap labour for landlords.

The unions also opposed the Bill allowing 100% FDI in insurance sector and raised objections to the draft Seed Bill and the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill.

Only one teacher in state's 6,675 govt schools

Teachers, From Page 1

The government has hired as many as 51,000 guest teachers in the current academic year, which is 6,000 more than the guest teachers appointed last year, they said.

While speaking in the Council, Minister Madhu Bangarappa said recruitment of teachers was delayed because of the internal reservation issue, and the hiring process would start soon.

Among schools with a single teacher, some even have a student strength of more than 30, and many such schools are in primary level.

"As most of these teachers have to handle classes between 1 and 5, they have no option but conduct classes by clubbing all children," said an office bearer of Karnataka State Primary School Teachers Association.

Chandrashekar Nuggli, president of the association, said: "It is impossible for a single teacher to manage all classes and it will impact learning levels. The government must appoint at least 2 teachers in such schools."

Members of School Development and Monitoring Committee have asked the government to deploy excess teachers in schools with lone teachers.

H-1B visa: US scraps lottery system, favours...

H-1B visa, From Page 1

The new system replaces the random lottery for selecting visa recipients with a process that gives greater weight to those with higher skills, it said.

The agency said that the lottery system of selecting H-1B visa applicants was rife with abuse and was exploited by companies to bring in foreign labour at low wages.

"The existing random selection process of H-1B registrations was exploited and abused by US employers who were primarily seeking to import foreign workers at lower wages than they would pay American workers," US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) spokesman Matthew Tragesser said.

"The new weighted selection will better serve Congress' intent for the H-1B program and strengthen America's competitiveness by incentivising American employers to petition for higher-paid, higher-skilled foreign workers. With these regulatory changes and others in the future, we will continue to update the H-1B programme to help American businesses without allowing the abuse that was harming American workers."

USCIS said the rule is another crucial step to strengthen the integrity of the H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme. It is in line with other key changes the administration has made, such as the Presidential Proclamation that requires employers to pay an additional $100,000 per visa as a condition of eligibility.

"As part of the Trump Administration's commitment to H-1B reform, we will continue to demand more from both employers and aliens so as not to undercut American workers and to put America first," said Tragesser.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE(East)/TEN/872/2025-26 Date: 22.12.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Executive Engineer, East Division, Bangalore Development Authority, (BDA) Bengaluru, on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible consultants through GoK e-Procurement portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for **Preparation of DPR for Construction of Housing Project at Sy.No.117/1 & 117/2 of Neelasandra (Austin Town) Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk (Block 'A' Type, Block 'B' Type (EWS)-1 Acre 13-Gunta.** EMD: **Rs. 32,000/-.** For further details, please log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or call e-Procurement help desk on 080-46010000/68948777

Sd/- Executive Engineer, East Division, BDA, Bengaluru

Town Municipal Council Chikodi

SL:TMC:CKD:DULT:2025-26 Date:19.12.2025

(KPP Portal) Tender notification
(Notice inviting tender through KPP Portal)

Town Municipal Council Chikodi invites tender for Civil license contractors in KW-4 Document for work under DULT Grant 1) Indent No 51220/call-2 Rs. 487.15 lakh, Work period 11month.

Sl. No:1: Last Date & Time for Tender document download: 20.12.2025, Sl. No:2:Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: 05.01.2026 @ 4.00 PM, Sl. No:3:Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid:07.01.2026 @ 4.00 PM, Sl. No:4:Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid:08.01.2026 @ 11.00 AM, Sl. No:5:Number of days to extend:2 Days.

Above tender work details are in available KPPP website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and TMC website www.chikoditown.mrc.gov.in.

Sd/-Chief Officer
TMC Chikodi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1520/KSMCA/2025-26

ಬೀದರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ | **BIDAR UNIVERSITY**
ಜ್ಞಾನ ಕಾರಂಜಿ ಹಾಲಹಳ್ಳಿ (ಕ), ಬೀದರ 585 414 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾರತ
Office of the Registrar Evaluation Section - E-Mail.registrarevaluationbidar@gmail.com

No. BUB/ADM/RT/2025-26/ Date : 23-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender has been invited from eligible respective service providers for the **supply of security services on outsourcing basis.** Details can be obtained from this office and the e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details, Registrar (Administration), Bidar University may be contact (Mobile No: 9449391184. Last date of receipt of tender: 08.01.2026.

Sd/-
Registrar
Bidar University, Gnyana Karanji,
Halhalli (K)-585414
Bidar, Karnatkaa

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Pareekshabhavana, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru – 56

No: EX-III/supply/Fujitsu/scanners/2025-26 Date: 12.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

Bangalore University invites quotations in two cover systems i.e. Technical & Financial from companies/firms towards supply of Fujitsu Scanners spare parts with installation for use of coming 2025-26 UG PG Examination of Bangalore University, Bengaluru.

The Specification, terms and conditions and Technical Bid may be downloaded from the University's website **bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in** and the Technical and Financial bids should be submitted to the Superintendent, Examination Branch-III, Pareeksha bhavana, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru – 560056, within 10 days of publication of this notification. For any clarification/queries, contact Superintendent, Examination Branch-III on 080-22961210 or e-mail **regeval_ex3@bub.ernet.in**

DIPR/CP/4636/Zen/2025-26 **Sd/- REGISTRAR (EVALUATION)**

'Jan Bhagidari' cornerstone of people-centric security: Prez

NEW DELHI, PTI: Asserting that community participation strengthens national security, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said people need not be passive observers of what happens around them and termed "jan bhagidari" as the cornerstone of people-centric security.

Droupadi Murmu

Addressing an event organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) here, she also said that social media has transformed the world of information and communication, and it has the potential for both creation and destruction.

"Protecting people from misinformation is a very challenging task. This task must be carried out continuously and very effectively. There is a need to create a community of active social media users who consistently present fact-based narratives in the national interest," Murmu said.

She said there are numerous examples of alert citizens helping professional forces with their inputs in averting security crises.

NCP factions likely to join hands for Pune civic polls

MUMBAI, DHNS: In what comes as a major twist in Maharashtra politics, Ajit Pawar-led NCP is likely to join hands with the NCP (SP) headed to contest the crucial elections to the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).

Besides, the Junior Pawar has also reached out to the Congress MLC Satej Patil for bringing the grand old party on board in Pune, the bastion of the Pawar family.

Patil confirmed that he has received a call from Ajit Pawar. "I have received a call from Ajit Dada...the proposal (of NCP tie-up with Congress) had come for Pune (only). We are deliberating on it, and holding discussions with the Congress's local leadership and the party's President Harshvardhan Sapkal," he said.

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, however, has not made any comments on the developments in Pune.

3.67 cr voters removed in draft poll rolls across 11 states, UTs

TN, Gujarat see highest number of name deletions

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A little over 10% or 3.67 crore names have been omitted in the draft electoral rolls of 11 states and union territories published after the second round of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) owing to death, shifting or having registered in multiple places.

The draft list of Uttar Pradesh, the 12th and last state in the second round, will be published on December 31. On Tuesday, the draft voter list of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar were released. The draft rolls of West Bengal, Rajasthan, Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu were released in the past 10 days.

According to the EC, genuine voters can still be added back to the electoral roll during the claims and objections phase, which will end on January 22, by filling appropriate forms.

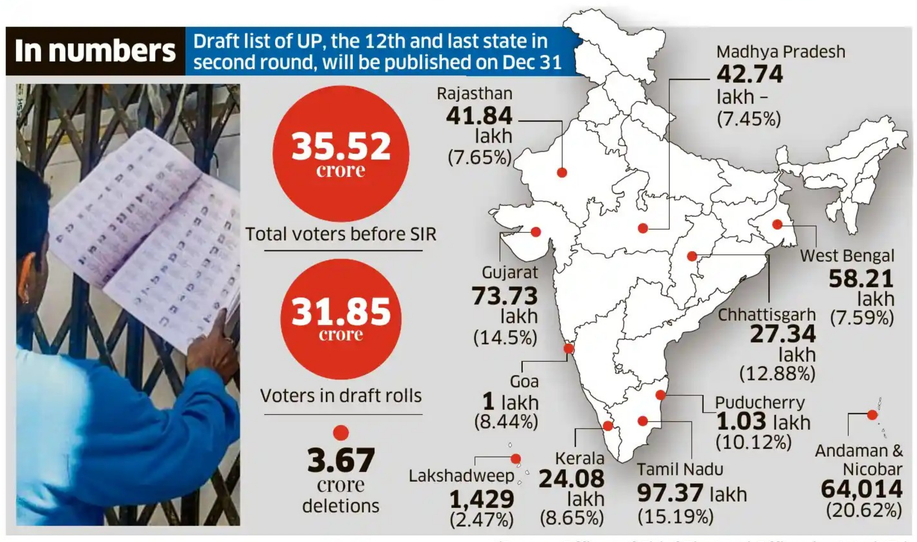
In the first phase of SIR, which was conducted in Bihar earlier this year, around 65 lakh out of 7.89 crore voters were deleted. However, later around three lakh voters were added during claims and objections period and with new additions, the total number of voters was pegged at 7.42 crore.

An analysis of draft rolls showed that 31.85 crore out of a total number of 35.52 crore voters in the previous voters list in 10 states and union territories managed to get into the draft. Of those omitted, 99.81 lakh were marked as dead, while 2.47 crore were recorded as shifted from the address where they have registered as a voter. Around 18.60 lakh voters have registered in more than one polling station.

Tamil Nadu has the highest number and proportion of omission of names in the draft list at 97.37 lakh or 15.19% of 6.41 crore voters.

Gujarat followed Tamil Nadu with 73.73 lakh or 14.5% of 5.08 crore failing to get into the draft list. Among the union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands had the highest proportion of deletions, 20.62% or 64,014 of 3,10 lakh voters, while if one takes absolute numbers, Puducherry topped the list with 1.03 lakh or 10.12% of 10.21 lakh.

Analysis showed that Madhya Pradesh (7.45%), West Bengal (7.59%), Rajasthan (7.65%), Goa (8.44%) and Kerala (8.65%) saw a proportion of deletions between 7.45% and 8.65%. Chhattisgarh had a higher proportion of 12.88% deletions, 27.34 lakh of 2.12 crore.



(Source: Offices of Chief Electoral Officer in state/UTs)

Karti to be charged in Chinese visa scam case

NEW DELHI, PTI

A Delhi court on Tuesday ordered the framing of charges for criminal conspiracy and corruption against Congress MP Karti P Chidambaram and six others in connection with the Chinese visa scam case, saying there was a prima facie case against them.

The court, however, discharged one accused, Chetan Shrivastava, saying there was no evidence against him.

In October 2024, the CBI had filed a charge sheet against Karti Chidambaram and others in connection with alleged bribery in facilitating visas of Chinese nationals for a power company, Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL), in 2011, when his father, P Chidambaram, was the Union home minister.

Karti Chidambaram

Besides Karti Chidambaram, the Lok Sabha MP from Sivaganga, the CBI had named his alleged close associate and chartered accountant, S Bhaskararaman, Talawandi Sabo Power Ltd (TSPL), a subsidiary of Vedanta, and Mumbai-based Bell Tools, through which bribes were allegedly routed.

In a 98-page order, Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh underlined that at the stage of framing charges, a mini-trial was not required, and the court had to only consider whether the material collected by the investigating agency reflected a strong suspicion or a prima facie case against the accused persons.

Noting the allegations against Karti Chidambaram, the court said that the approver approached him in Chennai to obtain 800 additional Project Visas for TSPL, believing he had contacts in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) because of his father.

It noted that the approver allegedly met Karti Chidambaram and S Bhaskaraman at Karti's Chennai office in June 2011 to discuss the visa requirements, following which he instructed the approver to discuss the necessary details with Bhaskaraman.

DELHI COURT

"At this stage of framing the charge, the approver's statement must be accepted without questioning its authenticity, as that will be examined during trial. The material presented by the prosecution must be accepted at face value at this stage.

AIADMK, BJP begin seat-sharing talks for 2026 TN Assembly polls

Palaniswami signals intent to lead NDA in TN; insists on contesting 170 seats

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (C) meets Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Arjun Ram Meghwal (R) in Chennai. PTI

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami held seat-sharing talks for the 2026 Assembly election with BJP Tamil Nadu election in-charge and Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in Chennai on Tuesday.

It is believed that the AIADMK reiterated that it would like to contest about 170 of the total 234 seats, leaving the remaining 64 to alliance partners, subtly conveying that the party still aims to form a government of its own in the event of winning the elections.

Goyal stressed on the need for 'ground-level coordination' among cadre and leaders of all constituents, while contending that the BJP's support base and vote share have witnessed an increase in the last few years, sources told *DH*.

The sources added that Palaniswami might also not be averse to accepting rebel leaders such as O Panneerselvam and T T V Dhinakaran as alliance partners as part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), provided they accepted his leadership, but clarity on it will emerge later.

The discussions also included parties like the DMDK and PMK.

"This is a good start. When other alliances haven't started work, we have formally launched the seat-sharing talks. Through this, we want to send a message that our alliance is strong and we have the political muscle to take on the DMK," a senior AIADMK leader told *DH*.

For the record, Goyal said the discussions centered around strengthening their alliance to fight the 2026 assembly election. "We will work for a bright future for Tamil Nadu," Goyal added.

Palaniswami said the discussions focused on ousting the 'anti-people DMK government' from power.

Goyal's meeting with Palaniswami comes amid reports that the BJP has identified about 50 seats for the party and another 15 seats for 'friendly partners' to contest on the Lotus symbol as it believes the party should be allotted 'more seats' this elections based on its 11% vote share in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

However, sources said the AIADMK leadership made it clear to the BJP that it will contest about 170 seats and leave only the remaining 64 to the allies.

"We can't get fewer than 170 seats as all Dravidian parties contest a similar number of seats. We have to cater to our party people, and we can't compromise on this," the AIADMK leader added. BJP leaders said though numbers were not discussed at length on Tuesday, they will not accept the 20 seats that they were allotted in the 2021 assembly polls. "We need seats proportionate to the 11% vote share we got in the 2024 polls," the leader added.

Court attaches land linked to US-based Kashmiri lobbyist

SRINAGAR, DHNS: A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Budgam has ordered the attachment of more than 1.5 kanals (8,167 sq ft) of land belonging to US-based Kashmiri lobbyist Ghulam Nabi Shah, also known as Dr Fai, in connection with a terror-related case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The attachment was ordered in FIR No. 46/2020 registered at Budgam police station under Sections 10, 13 and 39 of the UAPA, after the accused failed to appear before the investigating agency despite the issuance of a proclamation notice.

The order was passed on Tuesday by Judge Yahaya Firdous after the prosecution sought attachment of Fai's properties under provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, corresponding to Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The court noted that the accused had already been declared a proclaimed offender in the UAPA case.

Rahul rattled by kin and Congress' ignorance: BJP

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BJP slammed Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday over his remarks in Berlin, alleging that the Congress leader speaks against India and defames the country on foreign soil because he is "rattled" by the fact that his party colleagues and even family members are showing "no confidence" in him.

Gandhi has lost people's confidence, and it is apparent with the Congress losing 95 elections under his leadership, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla told a press conference at the party headquarters here.

The BJP came down heavily on Gandhi after the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha alleged that the ruling party is proposing the "elimination of the Constitution" that grants equal rights to every citizen and vowed to create a system of opposition resistance that will succeed in removing it from power.

Speaking at the Hertie School in Berlin last week, Gandhi accused the BJP of launching a full-scale assault on the country's institutional framework and capturing it to use it as a tool for building its political power.

Hitting back at him, Poonawalla said, "Rahul Gandhi is facing no confidence from people. His partners in the INDIA bloc, his own party leaders and even his family members are passing a no-confidence motion against him one after another."

He claimed that Gandhi is rattled because his party colleagues themselves are "rejecting what he says", with the latest example being Shashi Tharoor, who "completely diffused" his "vote-theft narrative" by appreciating the work done by the BJP-led NDA in Bihar over the last 20 years.

Unnao rape convict Kuldeep Sengar gets bail

NEW DELHI/UNNAO (UP), PTI: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday suspended the jail term of expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who is serving life imprisonment in the 2017 Unnao rape case, while imposing several conditions.

Kuldeep Singh Sengar. PTI FILE

A bench of Justices Subramonium Prasad and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar directed Sengar to furnish a personal bond of Rs 15 lakh with three sureties of the like amount.

The high court also directed him not to come within a 5-km radius of the victim's residence in Delhi and not to threaten her or her mother.

"Violation of any of the conditions would lead to cancellation of bail," the court said.

Sengar's sentence has been suspended by the high court till the pendency of his appeal challenging his conviction and sentence in the rape case. He has challenged a December 2019 trial court verdict in the rape case.

While pronouncing the verdict, the bench said the three sureties must be the residents of Delhi and also directed Sengar to stay in the national capital during the pendency of his appeal.

He should remain available to complete the remaining part of the sentence if found guilty.

Sengar was also directed by the high court to deposit his passport with the trial court and to report to the local police station every Monday at 10 am.

The high court listed his appeal before the roster bench on January 16, 2026, subject to orders of the chief justice.

Sengar kidnapped the minor and raped her in 2017.

The rape case and other connected cases were transferred to Delhi from a trial court in Uttar Pradesh on the directions of the Supreme Court on August 1, 2019.

Sengar's appeal against his conviction in the case of the custodial death of the survivor's father is also pending, where he has sought suspension of sentence on the ground that he has already spent a substantial time in jail.

Talking to the PTI, the Unnao rape case survivor said she was not satisfied with the verdict.

When do you intend to return, Bombay HC asks Vijay Mallya

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday asked fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya to state on affidavit when he plans to return to India before it hears his plea challenging the constitutional validity of the Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEO) Act, 2018.

Mallya has filed two petitions, one challenging an order declaring him as a fugitive economic offender and the other questioning the constitutional validity of the FEO Act.

"Let us be very clear, both these petitions will not run together. You will have to withdraw either one. Also, you will have to make a statement as to when you will return to India; only then we will hear the petition challenging the vires of the FEO Act," observed a division bench of the Bombay High Court comprising Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, the Chief Justice and Justice Gautam Ankhad.

"We can permit you to challenge any order passed against you under the Act, in your absence. But we cannot let you challenge the vires, without submitting to the jurisdiction of this court," the court said on the petition challenging the legal authority of the act.

Senior Advocate Amit Desai, who appeared for Mallya, told the HC that the financial liability had been effectively neutralised with the businessman's assets worth Rs 14,000 crore attached and liabilities worth Rs 6,000 crore recovered by lending banks.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, strongly opposed the plea, arguing that fugitives should not be permitted to challenge the vires of an Act without being subjected to the courts of the country. The bench posted the matter for further hearing on February 12.

On-the-run

- **Vijay Mallya** is accused of defaulting on multiple loan repayments and facing money laundering charges
- **He was** declared a Fugitive Economic Offender in January 2019
- **The 70-year-old** liquor baron left India in March 2016

'Biggest fugitives': Lalit Modi, Mallya captured on party video

LONDON, PTI: IPL founder Lalit Modi has shared a video on social media from fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya's 70th birthday party in London, referring to the duo as the "two biggest fugitives" of India.

The clip is the second in the past few days showing birthday celebrations for Mallya, who is wanted in India on charges of fraud and money laundering in connection with loans to the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

"We are the two fugitives, the biggest fugitives of India," Modi, the former IPL commissioner, is heard saying in the video, as Mallya smiles.

The post was captioned: "Let's break the internet down in India again. Happy birthday my friend Vijay Mallya".

"Something for you media folks. Wat (sic) your heard out with envy," Modi added.

Images shared by guests at the party showed several high-profile attendees, including British actor Idris Elba and Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.

POWER BOOST

After 20 years, first unit of Subansiri hydel project starts ops

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

India's largest hydropower power project, the 2000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project, finally began operations with one of its eight (unit 2) starting operating on Tuesday, after 20 years of work that saw public protests and cost escalation.

The 250MW unit on the Subansiri river at Gerukamukh, situated along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border, was virtually inaugurated from New Delhi by Union Minister of Power, Manohar Lal, in the presence of Pankaj Agarwal, secretary (power), Bhupender Gupta, CMD, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), and others.

Lal said the Subansiri project stands as a symbol of India's commitment to clean and sustainable energy, supporting Northeast India's growth, strengthening the national grid and advancing India's ambitious Net Zero goals. "Commissioning of the unit is not just a technical achievement, but a testament to years of hard work, dedication, and teamwork."

The remaining seven units (250 MW each) are scheduled for commissioning in phases during 2026-27.

"Upon full commissioning, the 2000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project will make a significant contribution to India's renewable energy capacity, enhance national grid resilience and usher in a new era in massive clean energy contribution," the Ministry of Power said.

The work on the project began way back in 2005, two years after it was approved by the Centre. The initial estimated cost of the project was pegged at Rs 6,285 crore and 2012 was set as the year of completion.

But it remained stalled between 2011 and 2019, mainly due to agitation by anti-dam organisations. The work, however, resumed in 2019.

Countdown for Isro's Bluebird Block-2 mission begins

SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH), PTI: The 24-hour countdown for the launch of LVM3-M6 rocket, which will carry a new generation US communication satellite, commenced here on Tuesday, Isro said.

In a dedicated commercial mission, Isro is scheduled to launch the Bluebird Block-2 spacecraft on board its heavy lift launch vehicle LVM3-M6 at 8.54 am on Wednesday.

Weighing 6,100 kg, the communication satellite would be the heaviest payload to be placed into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in LVM3 launch history, the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said.

The previous heaviest was the LVM3-M5 Communication Satellite 03, weighing about 4,400 kg that was successfully launched by Isro on November 2 in the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Wednesday's mission is being undertaken as part of the commercial agreement signed between NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) and US-based AST SpaceMobile (AST and Science, LLC). NewSpace India Ltd is the commercial arm of Isro.

BlueBird Block-2 mission is part of a global LEO constellation to provide direct-to-mobile connectivity through satellite.

This constellation would enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming and data for everyone, everywhere at all times. It features a 223 m 2 phased array, making it the largest commercial communications satellite every deployed into low Earth Orbit, about 600 km altitude.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

The threat to Aravalli, now redefined

The Supreme Court's acceptance of a definition of the Aravalli Range, based on the elevation of the hills, has triggered protests in Rajasthan and Haryana over fears that it would lead to large-scale destruction of the hills for mining, real estate, and other activities. Recommended by a panel under the Ministry of Environment, the definition identifies only landforms at an elevation of 100 metres or more as part of the mountain system. This means only about 1,050 of the 12,081 hills that form the range would qualify for protection. Nearly 90% of the Aravalli Hills in Rajasthan rise only 30-80 metres. The mountain range stretches across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Haryana, and is among the world's oldest. It is considered the region's green lung; it supports biodiversity, helps water conservation, regulates weather, and resists desertification.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav's claim that only 0.19% of the area will be open to mining and that new mining leases will be granted only after a detailed study has not convinced the activists. The stated extent of open land is seen as misleading because it is based on the total land area of all Aravalli districts. The prospect of degradation of the hills is real, and the concerns are reflected in rising public protest. It is feared that the "redefined" landscape would attract intensified mining, construction, and commercial activities in these areas. Illegal mining is already rampant across the range and has the patronage of politicians and officials. Many hills are under denudation, and it has started impacting people's lives.

The nod for an elevation-based definition may lead to intensified mining and ecological damage

While there is concern over the Supreme Court's acceptance of the definition of the range, the panel itself is facing criticism for ignoring the yardsticks framed by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), which has the required expertise in the matter. It has been claimed that not all the facts were presented to the Court. The need for a new definition for the range has also been contested, considering that the earlier definition – based on the slope of the landforms – had ensured protection of at least 40% of the hills. The Supreme Court has, in the past, passed orders that helped in protecting the Aravalli Range. It has also warned governments and officials against allowing activities that disrupt the environment in the region. The protesters do not appear to trust the government and politicians in the matter. The government will not be able to ignore the resistance as it gathers steam and shapes into a popular movement.

Drug safety: A crisis of enforcement

Karnataka's war on spurious and substandard drugs is being fought with empty ranks. Even as the memories of maternal deaths and serious complications linked to contaminated medicines in different parts of the state remain fresh, the enforcement machinery meant to protect patients has been crippled by the acute shortage of drug inspectors. Laws exist, amendments have been passed, and promises have been made, but without personnel on the ground, regulation remains largely theoretical. Of the 112 sanctioned posts of drug inspectors, only eight are filled. Over the past three years, the state Drugs Control Department has filed fewer than 25 cases against those selling spurious or adulterated drugs. In 2023-24, just 10 cases were registered; in 2024-25, the number fell to seven; and in 2025-26, it has stagnated at seven so far. This information, disclosed in a written reply during the recent Assembly session, exposes a disturbing mismatch between the magnitude of the problem and the state's response.

Recruitment has been frozen for nearly four years after the selection list published by the Karnataka Public Service Commission was challenged in the courts, eventually reaching the Supreme Court. While officers claim licences of offenders have been suspended, they also concede that core enforcement functions – quality checks, sampling, and prosecution – have suffered. This vacuum has consequences beyond counterfeit medicines. Self-styled *gurus* and *vaidyas* continue to peddle unproven cures for serious ailments, cleverly marketing them as food supplements under Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licences. The recent case of a Bengaluru techie losing over Rs 48 lakh to a quack is a stark reminder of how regulatory gaps are being exploited to defraud and endanger citizens.

Severe shortage of inspectors in Karnataka paralyses regulation, exposing citizens to heightened risks

The state has amended the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, making certain offences cognisable and non-bailable to curb racketeering in the sale of adulterated and duplicate drugs. These are welcome steps. But rules without enforcement serve little purpose. The challenge is compounded by Karnataka's limited jurisdiction over pharmaceutical manufacturing units located outside the state. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has repeatedly appealed to the Union Health Ministry to set up a centralised tracking system and stricter penalties for errant manufacturers. There is still no unified national mechanism to enable real-time, physical recalls from private pharmacies across state boundaries. The government must urgently move the apex court for early disposal of the case, highlighting how this paralysis is undermining patient safety and enabling spurious drugs to circulate unchecked. Public health cannot be held hostage to procedural delays.

A SHAKY CONSENSUS

When bills bypass due scrutiny

The Winter Session saw a hasty passage of legislations, offering minimal scope for debate and committee oversight

DEEPANSHU MOHAN AND ANKUR SINGH

India's Winter Parliamentary session ran from December 1 to 19. A truncated window of just 19 days. The Lok Sabha recorded 110% productivity, measured in terms of actual passing of bills, while the Rajya Sabha exceeded 121%. Yet these represent a quantitative veil hiding a qualitative collapse.

A close look at the data reveals a qualitative decline of a legislature transformed now into rubber-stamping, where extra hours are utilised to move legislation faster rather than to sharpen it. Each Parliamentary session across the Houses appears less like a debating chamber and more like a corporate board meeting where the decisions were made long before the attendees arrived.

The high productivity metrics effectively measure the speed of approval rather than the depth of the debate.

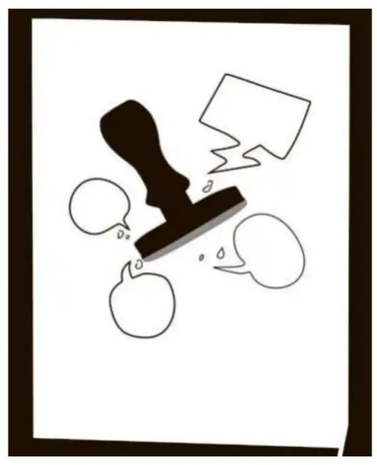
The primary indicator of this parliamentary erosion remains the referral of bills to departmentally related standing committees. These bodies allow the MPs to dissect legislation away from the political theatre of the floor, and historical data paints a picture of systemic decay.

The 15th Lok Sabha, between 2009 and 2014, referred 71% of all bills to committees to ensure laws underwent rigorous stress-testing. The government argues that speed is necessary to meet development targets and avoid the legislative paralysis of the past. However, data suggests this efficiency comes at the cost of due diligence.

The 16th Lok Sabha saw referrals drop to 25% and the 17th Lok Sabha drove this figure down to 16%. The Winter Session 2025 solidified this trend with a referral rate of 20%, where only two out of 10 bills reached a committee. When a bill skips a committee, it means no civil society groups are heard, and no state governments are consulted. It essentially means the government is flying blind on policy impact.

This trajectory confirms that the institutional capacity for scrutiny has been structurally compressed because the bureaucracy now drafts laws that bypass the legislative check entirely. The most significant legislative casualty of this process involved the effective dismantling of MGNREGA. The government introduced a new framework in its place, titled the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) or the VB-G RAM G Bill.

While policy shifts such as the 60:40 funding split between the Union and states are contentious, the method of passage was even more alarming. A law reshaping the livelihood security framework for tens of millions of rural households was introduced on December 16 and passed by December 18, leaving less than 48 hours between introduction and passage.



The demand to refer the Bill to the Standing Committee on Rural Development was rejected, and the government passed this structural overhaul via a voice vote without a recorded division. The government applied the same high-speed method to the energy sector through the SHANTI Bill, which ended the State monopoly on nuclear energy established by the 1962 Atomic Energy Act. The legislation invites private players and 100% Foreign Direct Investment to meet a 100-GW target. Yet the text leaves liability caps for private operators vague.

A shift of this magnitude ordinarily demands extensive scrutiny of complex nuclear liability insurance norms. The Parliament passed the Bill within a week of its introduction without it reaching the Standing Committee on Science and Technology.

A granular analysis of the 110% productivity figure reveals a strategic displacement of legislative business, where nearly 40% of parliamentary time was devoted to general discussions with no legislative consequence.

A special discussion marking the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram consumed close to 25 hours across both Houses. Issues such as air pollution and the employment crisis never got any parliamentary attention.

The government claimed it lacked time to have a longer debate on electoral reforms as the Opposition sought a specific inquiry into large-scale voter deletions.

Assent in absence

The Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (amendment of insurance laws) Bill followed the script by raising the FDI limit in insurance from 74% to 100%, which effectively removed the requirement for Indian ownership. Such a change would ordinarily warrant scrutiny by the Standing Committee on Finance. The government bypassed this step by arguing that earlier committees had examined the sector.

The Winter Session operated in the long shadow of the 2023 suspension of 146 MPs, which recalibrated the boundaries of parliamentary protest. Presiding officers now strictly police the Well of the House, leaving the Opposition with walkouts as its primary tool of dissent. The executive converts absence into assent through voice votes, erasing both opposition and accountability. The appearance of consensus is manufactured precisely where division should be visible.

The metrics of the Winter Session invite us to celebrate speed and volume, but Parliament was never designed to optimise for flow. The Founders built it to introduce friction. Committees and delays exist as safeguards that force the State to pause and reflect.

The inefficiency of the UPA era, with its frequent committee referrals, may have been the sound of the democratic immune system at work. The hyper-efficiency of the 18th Lok Sabha feels clean and administratively impressive yet democratically hollow. When democratic scrutiny vanishes, the Parliament ceases to be a check on executive power and becomes a conveyor belt for those in power to pass what they want.

(Deepanshu is a professor and Dean, O P Jindal Global University; Ankur is a research assistant with the Centre for New Economics Studies at the university)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Music through the ages of technology

As technology races forward, will music as we knew it endure?

N RAGHUPATHY

I got addicted to film music as a child, long before the advent of the digital age. I grew up watching my dad play instruments with his amateur orchestra during performances for the local community. My addiction turned me into an amateur instrumentalist of sorts through college and my adult life, now into retirement.

During college days, in the early seventies, practising to play a song was an ordeal. Music was available only in the form of vinyl discs in select shops at prices that would drain the limited budget that was available to our team. We had to select very specific songs that were popular and, more importantly, those that could be performed with the limited instruments at our disposal. Remember, there were no electronic keyboards to reproduce any and all sounds. Amplifiers and speakers, apart from weighing a ton, were barely affordable.

There were no tape recorders or other devices to (re)play tracks at any speed to figure out the notes and tune. Almost all learning had to be done by repeatedly listening to the song and focusing on the pieces you needed to play. During any live performance, it was no mean task to position a 15-piece orchestra correctly on the stage, make sure all the instruments could be heard (many of them had no built-in amplification) and carefully eliminate feedback from various microphones.

Over the next decades, music went through the phases of tape recorders, CDs and Walkmans that enabled listening to, learning and playing songs at will. The explosion of the Internet had a telling effect, with online streaming becoming a way of life. Applications like YouTube revolutionised the way video and audio were recorded and distributed. Amateurs and professionals alike were not only putting out their performances online but also freely analysing and highlighting scales, notes, chords and a host of other information regarding each song.

Digital innovation gave birth to the wonderful, all-in-one instrument, the keyboard. It is truly a one-person army, making it possible to play every aspect of a film song, produced by geniuses like M S Viswanathan and R D Burman with the help of a hundred-member orchestra, on one instrument measuring something like 4 feet by 2 feet! Coupled with its ability to pre-programme different sounds and instruments, it is not uncommon to see a band of just two on stage – the singer and keyboardist!

As the saying goes, too much of even nectar could become poisonous. As technology races forward, with the likes of AI (artificial intelligence) taking over all aspects of life, music has also become a victim. Features like pitch correction and blending and mixing have eliminated the need for singers to be on pitch or various instruments of an orchestra to have to play together in harmony. Worse, music is being 'produced' on computer keyboards through machine intelligence – a takeover from the musical keyboard and other instruments. Many times, I wonder if the art form called music, as we, or at least I, knew it, is extinct.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ETP exemption: A recipe for environmental disaster?

I refer to 'Industrial ETPs exempted from obtaining green clearance' (Dec 23). India's environmental regime has been diluted by exempting industrial effluent treatment plants (ETPs) from prior environmental clearance. While expediting pollution-control infrastructure and reducing procedural delays are legitimate objectives, environmental clearance is not a formality. This protection was created by the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 to ensure site suitability, scientific evaluation, and accountability before operations begin. The precautionary and polluter-pays principles have been repeatedly affirmed by the Supreme Court as essential to Indian environmental law and fundamental to the right to life under Article 21. A risk-based or conditional clearance system, supported by audits, stringent compliance deadlines, and real-time monitoring, would balance environmental protection with ease of doing business.

K V Chandramouli, Mysuru

Beyond the West

Apropos 'PM tour extends strategic outreach' (Dec 23), India's proactive outreach represents a calculated shift towards economic independence by securing vital trade corridors outside traditional Western influence. This strategy transforms India from a regional participant into a central architect of the Global South's financial future. These alliances show India prioritises long-term stability and strategic leadership over short-term diplomatic gestures.

Dhatri B S, Bengaluru

Complete projects

I refer to 'Three pillars in three years: Flyover project goes nowhere' (Dec 23). The Rs 71.4-crore project aimed at easing commute now stands with three measly pillars, symbolising municipal inefficiency. With uncertainty surrounding funding, it seems there is no solution to the increased traffic and other inconveniences caused by incomplete construction. Authorities must ensure projects are completed on time to avoid hindering commuters' daily lives.

Shoabana Ramarathnam, Bengaluru

Protect artistic freedom

Apropos 'Deplorable attack on spirit of cinema' (Dec 22), blocking film screenings undermines artistic freedom. Cinema should be trusted to promote critical thinking, and ask questions, not restricted.

Niharika Maria Thomas, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Rahul Gandhi engages in acts of treason against the country instead of showing patriotism. No LoP can go abroad and insult the country...While criticising PM Modi, Rahul Gandhi has started insulting the country.

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister

With politics I get the impression that patriotism's all about what's good for the party and not necessarily what's good for the country.

Ricardo Montalban

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

In B'desh unrest, a test for India

Turmoil exposes a vacuum of authority, radical mobilisation, and potential risks for India's Northeast

K S TOMAR

Bangladesh is passing through one of the most turbulent phases since the end of military rule in 1990, with the current unrest reflecting not a single trigger, but a convergence of structural decay, political miscalculations, and radical social mobilisation. What is unfolding on the streets is the cumulative outcome of prolonged centralisation of power, erosion of democratic safeguards, economic stress among the youth, and the collapse of institutional credibility. The crisis is, therefore, systemic rather than episodic, rooted in the steady narrowing of political space and weakening of democratic accountability over the years.

The immediate spark may lie in violent street confrontations, but the underlying fire has been smouldering for long, fed by the absence of credible mediating institutions capable of absorbing dissent. The interim advisory dispensation bears significant responsibility for this drift, having failed to establish authority, reassure the public or curb escalating violence. Instead of acting as a stabilising bridge between regimes, it has appeared reactive, indecisive, and disconnected, allowing disorder to spread rather than containing it. This vacuum of authority has accelerated public disillusionment and emboldened disruptive forces.

A critical factor in the current turmoil is the mobilisation of radicalised youth groups, some driven by genuine economic frustration, and others by ideological extremism. Extremist organisations, both religious and ultra-nationalist, have exploited this vacuum.

What distinguishes the current unrest from earlier protest cycles is the decentralised nature of violence, with loosely connected groups operating autonomously, and often without identifiable leadership. This fragmentation has rendered conventional law enforcement responses ineffective and reactive. The authorities underestimated the scale of this threat, relying on outdated policing methods while failing to counter online radicalisation or information warfare. As the State writ weakened, non-State actors stepped in, creating zones of parallel authority and fear, eroding public confidence in governance and security institutions.

The implications of Bangladesh's turmoil extend well beyond its borders. For India, instability next door is never a distant problem. Prolonged unrest raises the spectre of refugee flows into the eastern states of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura, straining social cohesion and administrative capacity. Radical groups operating in Bangladesh have historically maintained linkages with networks in India's Northeast, and renewed instability could revive dormant insurgent corridors that were dismantled through years of security co-operation.

Pakistan, though geographically separated, may view the chaos as an opportunity to regain strategic relevance in South Asia by encouraging narratives hostile to India or exploiting Islamist sentiment. More broadly, instability threatens regional connectivity initiatives, cross-border trade, energy co-operation, and Bay of Bengal maritime security.

India's challenge

For India-Bangladesh ties, the crisis represents a severe stress test. Over the past decade, bilateral ties have rested on security co-operation, economic integration, and political trust between leaderships. Sustained instability threatens all three pillars simultaneously. India cannot afford a posture of indifference, yet overt intervention would be counterproductive, reinforcing nationalist backlash within Bangladesh.

New Delhi's response must, therefore, be calibrated, combining diplomatic engagement with humanitarian readiness and firm advocacy for institutional restoration. India should work through regional and multilateral forums to press for de-escalation, protection of minorities, and a credible roadmap to political normalcy.

The Bangladesh army's role has become central yet ambiguous. Historically, the ultimate guarantor of order, it now appears reluctant to assume full control, wary of domestic backlash and international scrutiny, yet unwilling to allow total breakdown. This hesitation has produced an unstable equilibrium, preventing collapse but prolonging uncertainty, and fuelling speculation about eventual intervention. In such a climate, the prospect of free and credible elections appears increasingly remote. Polls held amid pervasive violence and administrative paralysis risk producing contested outcomes and deeper instability rather than legitimacy.

The United States' reaction is being closely watched. Washington's perceived role in the ouster of former president Sheikh Hasina has entered popular discourse, fuelling suspicions of external engineering. The US is likely to publicly emphasise democracy, human rights, and inclusive elections, while privately prioritising stability and counter-extremism. Its leverage, however, remains constrained; excessive pressure could aggravate chaos rather than resolve it, while sanctions could weaken an already fragile economy.

Ultimately, Bangladesh stands at a crossroads where postponing hard decisions will only compound the crisis. Restoring order requires reassertion of State authority, dismantling extremist networks, and rebuilding trust through inclusive political dialogue. The Bangladesh army must decide whether it will merely manage instability or actively facilitate a civilian-led transition. For India and the region, the priority must be preventing spillover while supporting a sovereign, stable, and democratic Bangladesh.

(The writer is a Shimla-based senior political analyst)

Pollution policy and the politics of exclusion

ANCHAL BHATHEJA

Each winter, Delhi enters emergency mode as air quality crosses hazardous thresholds. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) escalates through stages, culminating in Stage IV, when the strictest restrictions are imposed: older vehicles are banned, construction halts, offices are asked to adopt remote work, and residents are advised to stay indoors. What was once framed as extraordinary has now become a routine aspect of governance. Yet even at this level, the policy assumes an able body—one that can readily access masks, navigate indoor spaces, or avoid exposure. For persons with disabilities (PwDs), this assumption is flawed and exclusionary.

Air pollution is not neutral. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) penetrates deep into lungs and enters the bloodstream, causing inflammation, breathlessness, and cardiovascular stress. For people with respiratory disabilities, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or compromised immunity, exposure that may be a minor irritant for others can trigger medical emergencies.

The impact is broader than respiratory conditions. Persons with neurological, developmental, and cognitive disabilities are also affected. Research links air pollution to cognitive stress, worsened concentration, neurological inflammation, and anxiety. For children and adults with autism or intellectual disabilities, smog disrupts routines, intensifies sensory overload, and can trigger severe behavioural or emotional distress.

Government advisories often instruct citizens to stay indoors, wear masks, and use air purifiers. For many able-bodied individuals, these measures provide partial protection. For disabled people, they are frequently impractical or inaccessible. Air purifiers, while widely recommended, are rarely designed with accessibility in mind. Blind individuals, for example, cannot easily navigate filter maintenance or device settings without assistance. People with reduced mobility may struggle to transport or install these devices in their homes. Similarly, masks — while essential for filtering particulate matter — present their own challenges. For those with respiratory difficulties, prolonged mask usage can induce discomfort or even breathing distress. Individuals with sensory sensitivities, such as people on the autism spectrum, may find masks intolerable, leading to heightened stress and physical strain.

Daily life for many disabled people necessitates outdoor movement. Medical appointments, therapy sessions, and essential errands cannot be postponed, yet public transport — often the only viable option—exposes them to polluted streets and transit hubs. Wheelchair users and those with locomotor disabilities face uneven footpaths, crowded buses, and limited paratransit options, which prolongs exposure to toxic air. Inaccessible infrastructure compounds health risk: a journey that might take ten minutes for others can take an hour or more for disabled commuters, with every extra minute outdoors magnifying the danger posed by pollution.

Pollution interacts with disability in ways that are often invisible. Masks obscure facial expressions, a critical communication tool for people with hearing impairments who rely on lip-reading. Smog-induced eye irritation further disrupts visual cues, which are essential for the deaf and for individuals with low vision. For visually impaired people, poor air quality reduces visibility in streets and public spaces, increasing the risk of accidents. Those with cognitive or sensory processing disabilities experience heightened anxiety, disorientation, and disrupted routines in environments where air quality fluctuates unpredictably. In these ways, pollution magnifies daily barriers to independence, autonomy, and safety.

Hospital systems in Delhi already face surges in pollution-related admissions each winter. For disabled people, access to timely, disability-sensitive care is limited. Mobility challenges, long outpatient waits, and inadequate adaptive facilities delay or prevent treatment. Health insurance, intended as a safety net, is often inaccessible; pre-existing condition exclusions and prohibitive premiums leave many PwDs without coverage. The result is a triple burden: heightened exposure, greater susceptibility to illness, and fewer protective mechanisms. Pollution becomes not only a health hazard but also a marker of systemic inequality.

Policy blind spots and ableist assumptions

Despite the severity of Delhi's air quality challenges, pollution policies remain largely able-bodied in their design. GRAP Stage IV curbs, while essential for emission control, fail to address the unique vulnerabilities of PwDs. Advisory messages and emergency protocols are framed for a generic citizen, ignoring how disability intersects with environmental risk. This ableist lens ensures that pollution, even when controlled in theory, continues to disproportionately harm those least able to protect themselves.

A truly equitable approach would explicitly recognise persons with disabilities as a high-risk group in pollution advisories, ensuring communication is accessible and understandable. Healthcare responses must include home-based interventions, telemedicine, and disability-sensitive monitoring during peak pollution periods. Public transport and urban infrastructure should minimise exposure for those with mobility challenges. Even simple devices, like air purifiers, must be redesigned or adapted to be fully accessible. Critically, disabled people must be included in the planning and execution of environmental and health policies so that solutions reflect lived realities, not abstract assumptions.

Air pollution in Delhi is a public health emergency, but it is not a neutral one. It affects bodies differently, with disabled individuals bearing disproportionate physical, psychological, and economic costs. Until policy explicitly accounts for disability, pollution interventions will continue to favour the able-bodied, leaving the most vulnerable exposed, under-protected, and ignored. True public health protection requires acknowledging that environmental hazards intersect with social inequities. Clean air cannot be a privilege for the able-bodied alone; it is a right for all.

(The writer is a research fellow – disability inclusion and access, at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

Bashar al-Assad's long, brutal reign ended swiftly, but he and his close circle have had a soft landing in Russia

ERIKA SOLOMON, CHRISTIAAN TRIEBERT, HALEY WILLIS AND AHMAD MHIDI

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

For fallen Syrian dictator, an exile of luxury, impunity

Just a few weeks after a whirlwind rebel offensive seized control of his homeland last year, a Syrian expatriate in Moscow treated himself to a meal in the city's tallest skyscraper. With views from the 62nd floor, stylish hosts and elaborate cocktails, the restaurant "Sixty" regularly welcomes members of Russia's political elite and foreign celebrities.

So the Syrian diner, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had not been surprised when servers asked him to refrain from taking photos.

But he was surprised to discover who one of the VIPs dining in his midst was: his country's ousted dictator, Bashar Assad.

For more than five decades, the Assad family name has been synonymous with brutal autocracy. Now, the Assads are fugitives living in Moscow.

Both the deposed president and his brother Maher Assad, one of the regime's most powerful military leaders, have betrayed little about how they spend their days in the country that propped them up when they were in power and took them in when they fell.

But from witnesses and family friends, and digital clues left on hard-to-track social media accounts, reporters for The New York Times have uncovered glimpses into a life of luxury and impunity.

Details of the Assad family's lives emerged from a Times investigation into the whereabouts of 55 of the regime's highest-ranking officials. The people who spoke to the Times — including family friends, relatives and former officials—insisted on anonymity out of concern for their safety.

The Assads' luxurious exile began from the first moments they fled to Moscow via private jets and car convoys, according to a relative, two family friends and two ex-military officers from the 4th Division, which Maher Assad led. All of them have spoken to, stayed with or met members of the Assad family. Under the close guard of Russian security services, they first stayed in opulent apartments run by the Four Seasons, which can cost up to $13,000 per week.

From there, the deposed president and his family moved to a two-story penthouse in Federation Tower, the same skyscraper where the restaurant Sixty is located. Later, Bashar Assad was moved to a villa in the secluded suburb of Rublyovka, west of Moscow, according to a former Syrian official in touch with the family, another acquaintance and a regional diplomat told by Russian officials.

The enclave is popular with the Russian elite and boasts a "luxury village" shopping complex. The Russian security services continue to guard Assad and oversee his movements, the former officials and regional diplomat said, and have ordered the family not to make public statements.

In February, Russian authorities moved quickly, three other former officials said, when Assad's son Hafez, 24, wrote about the family's escape on social media and shared a video of himself strolling through Moscow. He has not posted online since.

Two acquaintances said they had seen Maher Assad, a baseball cap low over his eyes, several times at a gleaming skyscraper in Moscow's business district where they believed he was living. One family friend said he lived in the Capital Towers buildings in that district.

In June, he was seen in a video on social media at the trendy Myata Platinum hookah bar in Afimall, a nearby shopping and entertainment complex.

While in power, Maher Assad and the forces he led were accused of shooting unarmed protesters, enforcing "surrender or starve" sieges and running a regional drug trafficking operation estimated to have made them billions of dollars.

Judging by the activities of the Assad daughters, the family has retained significant wealth.

In November, the ousted dictator invited friends and Russian officials to a villa in the suburbs for an opulent party celebrating his daughter Zein's 22nd birthday, according to a relative, a former regime officer and a family friend whose children or close friends attended the party.

Bashar Assad's cousin and Maher Assad's daughter, Sham Assad, also appeared to celebrate her 22nd birthday with an extravaganza, held over two nights in mid-September at a gold-tiled French restaurant called Bagatelle in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and then on a private yacht.

The social media accounts of both women are set to private, with usernames that don't obviously signal their identities. But the Times found and confirmed the authenticity of the accounts through tips from relatives and family friends, then examined images and videos from public-facing Instagram posts by their friends.

One post from Sham Assad's birthday showed golden 22-shaped balloons surrounded by gifts in bags from luxury brands such as Hermès, Chanel and Dior.

Another captured revellers at Bagatelle surrounded by Champagne sparklers. There is a glimpse of Sham Assad herself, shaking a bottle of Cristal in a cheering crowd. Another photo tags her cousin Zein's Instagram, though she is not seen in the shot. The party continued the next day on a yacht emblazoned with the name "Stealth Yacht" in lights, with a DJ and flashing strobe lights, according to the posts.

A social media account for a Dubai-based private rental yacht by that name also featured photos from the party. The boat is equipped with smoke machines, multiple bars and a hot tub, and costs several thousand dollars for several hours, plus thousands more for DJs, bartenders and performers, according to marketing materials.

Both daughters have been living in the UAE as well as partying there.

According to two family friends and two former military officers who remain in contact with Maher Assad or his entourage, the elder Assads struck a special agreement with Emirati officials that allows their children to stay in the country. Emirati officials did not reply to questions from the Times.

Just weeks after the fall of the regime, Zein Assad returned to her studies in the UAE, at the Abu Dhabi branch of the Sorbonne, a renowned French university, according to family friends and a classmate. She was accompanied on campus, the classmate said, by large and imposing bodyguards.

Not all Syrian students embraced her return. In a group chat, one student told Zein Assad she was "not welcome," according to two people who said they had seen the exchange. Shortly afterward, they said, the entire chat was shut down, and the student was no longer seen on campus. A relative of the student said he had been questioned by Emirati authorities and later left the university in part because of this incident.

The Sorbonne Abu Dhabi said the student's dismissal was a "purely academic matter" and cited three infractions, including cheating. The acrimony in the chat group with Zein Assad had "no connection" to the dismissal, the university said.

The classmate said Zein Assad had not attended classes for part of her last term. But she did pick up a diploma in June at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, where she was also enrolled. Photographs of the graduation showed her brothers and mother in attendance.

In exile, Bashar Assad and his brother are said to have taken different approaches to how they treat those who once served them.

Maher Assad has been relatively generous with his closest officers, according to two former commanders and a family friend in touch with him. He sends money to help old allies find apartments or start small businesses in their new lives, they said. But Bashar Assad's personal assistant was left stranded in Moscow by his former boss, according to two of the man's friends and a fellow aide who said they had spoken with the assistant. **NYT**

Rage bait and the words we live by

VIJAY MAHANTESH PAPANAL

Words reflect the world. A language breathes its existence through its words. A robust sign of a thriving language is not only its ability to preserve its inherited vocabulary but also its ability to form and fashion new words that strike concordance with the ever-changing sociological dynamics. In a world that is social media addicted, artificial intelligence afflicted, and emoji attrited, the languages of the world face a daunting challenge to adapt and remain adept in such a fast-paced society that we live in. English, the lingua franca of the world today, has become the most predominant language precisely for exhibiting such a flexibility with which it faces the constant change. A language that fails to meet the needs of the times, gets relegated into a position of constricted application. Languages of eminence during the millennia before the common era such as Latin, Egyptian, Greek and Sanskrit are classic cases of what happens to a language when it becomes rigid and archaic. That's a perilous limitation. And as the 20th century philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein puts it, "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world". A language must breach the limits which every era throws at it for it to remain apposite.

English negotiates such crests and troughs in the lifecycle of a language with astonishing ease. One major factor behind its continued dominance is the role played by premier academic institutions in keeping it relevant and sustainable. Oxford University Press leads this effort. Its annual selection of the 'Oxford word of the year' not only enriches the English lexicon but also keeps the language continually growing, changing and remaining relevant. For 2025, Oxford has chosen the expression 'rage bait'.

The term captures the essence of contemporary public discourse. It also effectively depicts the kernel of social media's overall existence today. Rage has become the very definition of social media to a larger extent, if not to its fullest. A casual stroll through social media platforms reveals how rage has become a common form of expression – be it an upfront action or a reticent reaction. Countless people appear perpetually poised to vent their ire at something or somebody. These are not isolated occurrences. A careful observation of the trends lays bare the undercurrents that keep these social media platforms engulfed.

Those undercurrents are fuelled by a perennial source of antagonism, albeit a manufactured one. In other words, rage is offered as bait and supplied as a necessary rot. Unfortunately, that rot runs deep. Much to the consternation of every saner voice, such rage acts as a pernicious sociological disorder. Worse still, rage becomes an accepted norm. And rage baiting becomes an everyday phenomenon. This is what we see today on the social media platforms. Entities with nefarious motives keep throwing rage as the bait, and the thoughtless lot bites it nonchalantly. As a consequence, sanity and sobriety become not only unpopular but also equally repugnant. Rage-bait consumes the *compos mentis* of the society and establishes rancorous rage as the new acceptable social behaviour.

As every stick has two ends, so does an arrow. But when rage is the arrow, then both its sides are penetratingly sharp. The archer of the rage, however long he intends to drag the string, will have to eventually endure the strident strike of the same arrow and with the same ferocity. The archer and the arrow thus become hunter and the hunted at the same time. That's the price the practitioners of mindless rage will have to pay ultimately. The venom spewed through the rage becomes the toxon, and the spewer its toxophilite. The word toxic, interestingly though, is derived from the root word toxon. The expression 'rage-bait' exactly illustrates the unhealthy trend prevalent in today's societal confabulation, and in choosing it as the word of the year 2025, Oxford University Press has conscientiously recorded one of the concerning precipitations of social media today that runs like an uncontrolled turning and tossing bronco.

For many reasons, T S Eliot was a prophetic poet. Eliot says in his work *Four Quartets*: "For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice."

On the cusp of entering a new year, let us hope this year's rage baiting becomes a thing of the past, and next year's new words find their way through new voices which can keep the bane and baleful bait at bay.

(The writer is an independent researcher of Indology, ancient history and epigraphy)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

Iran seeks India's help for uranium project

New Delhi, Dec. 23
Iran, which has launched an ambitious nuclear power programme with American and French aid, is seeking India's help to train its nuclear experts and develop its own nuclear technology. Dr. Akbar Edmad, Chief of Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation, has toured Indian Atomic Energy establishments and discussed with Mr. H. N. Sethna, Chairman of Indian Atomic Energy Commission, areas of "mutual co-operation," and the establishment of joint ventures in Iran.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

Noor's death leaves many memories in India, Pak

New Delhi, Dec 23 (UNI)
'*Aawaaz de kahan hai, duniya meri jawan hai.*' This soulful melody was rendered almost 60 years ago in the film *Anmol Ghadi* in the still-undivided India, and it still stirs the soul when rendered by younger singers. But the voice that rendered this song in 1943 has now fallen silent. Though she lived in Pakistan, Noor Jehan will go down as one of the most important figures of Indian cinema. She was among the "singing stars" who dominated the silver screen through the 1930s and '40s.

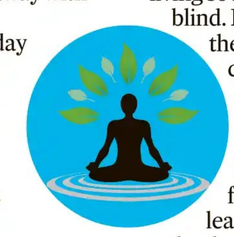
OASIS | LEELA RAMASWAMY

The unconditional friends we need

'Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms,' said George Eliot, the writer. These words resonate with me because I am a lover of animals. Kia, my neighbour's pet, is one of them. There is nothing better than meeting her every evening when I go on my daily walk. She is overjoyed when she sees me, expecting nothing more than a few pats and a scratch under the strap that hangs over her neck. Both of us enjoy these few minutes together, and I suspect I receive more from these encounters than she does. She rubs against my hand in a friendly manner, her liquid, brown eyes gazing deep into mine.

I feel blessed and walk away with great satisfaction.

Sad to say, even in this day and age, when we should know better, animals are the most badly treated of all living creatures. Just because they do not respond as human beings do, they are looked down upon and treated without mercy. Nonetheless, they have often proved better creatures than human beings. They are not only useful but also loving and loyal. Take 'seeing eye' dogs, for example. They have made living so much more tolerable for the blind. Medical opinion has it that the companionship of animals contributes a great deal to the healing process.



Just pat a dog or cat to feel a flood of relief. Your breathing becomes slower and fuller. For some minutes at least, you are rid of the worries that haunted you.

Your facial muscles relax and you smile readily. While you talk to the animal, your voice softens. You feel the softness of her fur, and as your hand glides over her shoulders, your thoughts of others become gentler. Your mind quietens and becomes soothed. When you walk away, you are suffused by a feeling of warmth, and the world seems to be a better place to live in.

The poet Walt Whitman began a poem with the words, 'I think I could turn round and live with animals. They are so placid and self-contained. I stand and look at them long and long. They do not sweat and whine...' I agree with him and do hope it is the same with you!

2 killed, 38 cops injured as clash erupts in Assam dist for second day

Internet services in Karbi Anglong and West Anglong districts temporarily suspended

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Two people were killed and at least 45 others, including 38 police personnel, injured on Tuesday as violent protests demanding the eviction of non-tribals escalated in Assam's trouble-torn Karbi Anglong district.

Clashes between two groups of protesters led to arson and retaliatory action by security forces, who resorted to lathicharge and tear gas to disperse the crowd, officials said.

Police sources said one agitator died allegedly during the clash, while a non-tribal specially abled man died after the agitators set fire to shops at Kheroni market.

Several shops and two-wheelers were set on fire while agitators rained stones and even used arrows targeting the security forces.

TENSE SITUATION

- Protesters are seeking eviction of encroachers from tribal belts.
- Several shops and two-wheelers were set on fire. Agitators rained stones, arrows targeting the security forces
- One agitator died allegedly in police firing, while a non-tribal specially abled man died after the agitators set fire to shops

The volatile situation forced the administration to temporarily suspend internet and mobile data services to prevent escalation of the situation.

Assam DGP Harmeet Singh repeatedly appealed to the protesters not to resort to violence as the government had begun talks to address their grievances. "They are, however, hurling bombs, shooting arrows and burning down shops... 38 police personnel, including IPS officers, were injured in the violence. A stone hit my shoulder, too," Singh said.

Police resorted to blank firing, used tear gas shells and batons as the protesters rained stones targeting them near a bridge over the Kopili river on the outskirts of Kheroni, where similar violence took place on Monday.

The fresh violence was reported at Kheroni market and nearby areas on Tuesday afternoon, soon after Education Minister Ranoj Pegu ended talks with the protesters and fixed January 3 for a tripartite meeting involving Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Tuliram Ronghang, Chief Executive Member of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council.

(With PTI inputs)

Assam will become B'desh if immigrant population rises: CM

CHABUA, PTI: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday claimed that Assam will "automatically be included" in Bangladesh if the number of people from the neighbouring country residing in the northeastern state increased by another 10%.

Sarma, speaking to reporters after an official event here, said he has been raising this issue for the last five years.

"In Assam, 40 per cent of the population are Bangladeshi-origin people. If it increases 10 per cent more, we will automatically be included," he said when asked about a reported comment by a leader in Bangladesh about merging the northeast with the neighbouring nation.

"That is why I have been shouting (about the issue) for the last five years," he added.

Earlier this month, Bangladesh's newly formed National Citizen Party (NCP) leader, Hasnat Abdullah reportedly said that Dhaka should "isolate" India's northeastern states, and extend support to separatist elements in the region if New Delhi attempted to destabilise his country.

Abdullah claimed that the northeastern states were geographically "vulnerable" as they were dependent on the narrow 'Siliguri Corridor', also called the 'Chicken's Neck', for connectivity with the Indian mainland.

UP court rejects govt plea in Akhlaq lynching case

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In a major setback to the Uttar Pradesh government in the 2015 Mohammad Akhlaq mob lynching case, the Surajpur court on Monday rejected a plea seeking withdrawal of the case against the accused, and ordered that the trial be fast-tracked with day-to-day hearings.

The court dismissed the application filed by the prosecution as 'baseless,' Advocate Yusuf Saifi, counsel for Akhlaq's family, said.

The case pertained to the alleged mob lynching of Mohammed Akhlaq at Bisahada village in Dadri after rumours that he had slaughtered a cow and stored the meat in his house.

Additional District Judge Sourav Dwivedi also directed that security be provided to the witnesses, if needed. The prosecution lawyer had earlier contended that withdrawal of the case would lead to restoration of communal harmony.

The next hearing has been fixed for January 6.

The UP government had moved the court seeking permission to withdraw the case against all the accused, citing maintenance of social harmony.

The application was filed by the assistant district government advocate (criminal) following directions from the state government and the joint director of prosecution.

Akhlaq was allegedly lynched on the night of September 28, 2015, by a mob that barged into his house following rumors of cow slaughter. While Akhlaq died on the spot, his son, Danish, was seriously injured in the attack.

As many as 18 people, including three minors, were arrested in connection with the matter. Fourteen people are currently out on bail. The lynching had triggered nationwide outrage.

Elaborate arrangements made for Vaikuntha Ekadasi in Tirumala

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has made elaborate arrangements for the auspicious Vaikuntha Dwara Darshanam scheduled from December 30 to January 8 atop Tirumala hill shrine.

Speaking to reporters, TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal said that over the past two months, officials have conducted inspections and prepared detailed plans covering entry and exit routes, security arrangements, annaprasadam distribution, accommodation, queue line management, and parking facilities.

As per the directions of the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, a special TTD Board meeting was convened and several key decisions were taken, giving top priority to common devotees during the ten-day Vaikuntha Ekadasi-Dwara Darshanams, he said.

Darshan tokens through the e-DIP system were allotted to common devotees for December 30 (Vaikuntha Ekadasi), December 31 (Vaikuntha Dwadashi), and January 1. To ensure wider participation, e-DIP registrations were kept open for five days.

Around 24 lakh devotees registered, of whom 1.89 lakh devotees were selected through e-DIP and allotted tokens for the first three days.

The devotees who could not secure tokens through e-DIP will be allowed for darshan through the Sarva Darshan queue lines from January 2 to January 8.

From January 2 to January 8, a total of 15,000 Rs 300 special entry darshan tickets and 1,500 Srivani Darshan tickets have been released online per day. For locals of Tirupati and Tirumala, 5,000 tokens per day will be issued under the quota on January 6, 7, and 8.

In view of the heavy influx of devotees, special darshans for parents with infants, senior citizens, differently-abled persons, NRIs, and defence personnel have been cancelled.

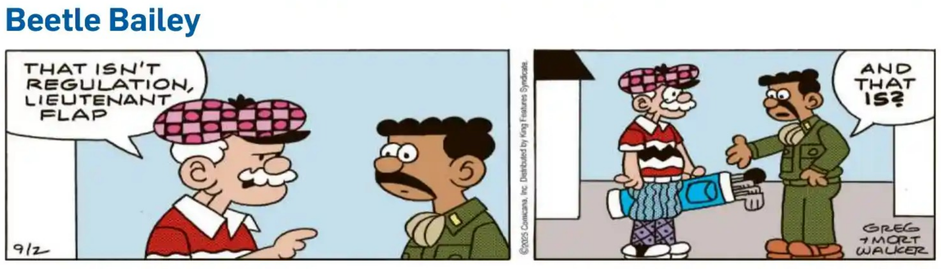
MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

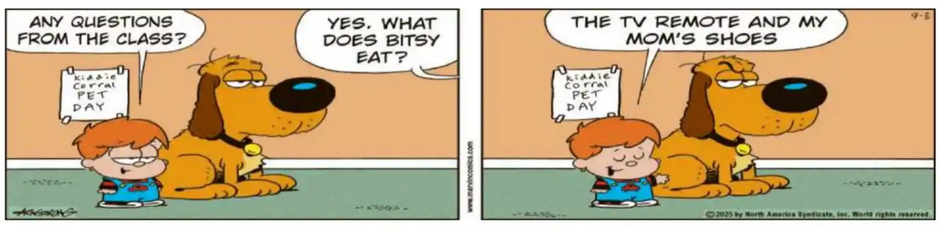
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

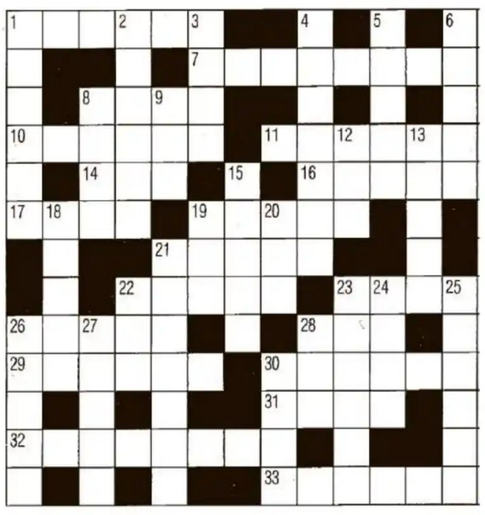


Peanuts

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12316



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Cannot a sailor be at Cambridge? (6)
7 He cried all the way to the bank (8)
8 Not to mention a London symphony orchestra (4)
10 Perhaps the last thing that might strike you (6)
11 Shoots a prude when there are saints around (6)
14 Late afternoon refreshment? (3)
16 Machine that gets you late and out of breath! (5)
17 A deity in authority (4)
19 To a woman, a wine (5)
21 A blunder borne out! (5)
22 For a joint contribution, figure ahead (5)
23 Takes a knock (4)
26 Flier, a role model to a motherless man (5)
28 Extra decoration in the saloon (3)
29 Loves a door's sound! (6)
30 The result may be a certain brilliance (6)
31 It takes days to build a side (4)
32 Restricts, the punishment convicts accept (8)
33 As an experiment, attempt to get away (3-3)

DOWN
1 Encounter a doctor in a coat (6)
2 One giving guidance for the farmer? (6)
3 Spot a misplaced bolt (4)
4 Saint Simon – a knightly character? (7)
5 Custom of riding? (5)
6 Lines from overseas (5)
8 Viola's voice? (4)
9 The drink that tastes salty (3)
12 A pronounced contribution to radiation (3)
13 Sort of writer with spirit? (5)
15 Having gold, a fellow can be generous (5)
18 Not what you'd call a free hand (5)
19 Antonio's heavy heart (3)
20 Is he keen to avoid duplicating a letter? (3)
21 Professional player's favourite match (7)
22 It's high and to the upper end (3)
23 Low-down way of doing things at headquarters? (6)
24 They have educated masters (4)
25 As you think wise, raise fees for it (3,3)
26 One thing to do with eggs in the kitchen? (5)
27 Of ball ammunition, singularly? (5)
28 A starter bound not to get on (3)
30 The 51st catalogue? (4)

ACROSS
1 Easy (6)
7 Gambling game (8)
8 Prima donna (4)
10 Rubs out (6)
11 Outward appearance (6)
14 Toddler (3)
16 Of the nose (5)
17 Intend (4)
19 Jockey (5)
21 Offal item (5)
22 Broaden (5)
23 Appear (4)
26 Old Nick (5)
28 Boy's name (3)
29 Makes amends (6)
30 Dais (6)
31 Single entity (4)
32 Sleigh (8)
33 House of God (6)

DOWN
1 Shriek, shrill cry (6)
2 Jail (6)
3 Epochs (4)
4 Mrs Mop (7)
5 Book of maps (5)
6 Horizontal (5)
8 Information (4)
9 Animal doctor (3)
12 Vehicle (3)
13 Do this at a disco (5)
15 Five-pound note (5)
18 Splendour (5)
19 To free (3)
20 Lair (3)
21 Descent (7)
22 Pallid (3)
23 Silvery-white element (6)
24 Discharge (4)
25 Mutter (6)
26 Saline (5)
27 Sepulchres (5)
28 Unit of weight (3)
30 Long high kick (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12315

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, A-by-ss 6, S-cabs 9, Worldly 10, A-gain 11, Earth 12, Given 13, Concern 15, So-L 17, Leah 18, Jemima 19, Tu-t-or 20, Shut up 22, Semi 24, SAM 25, Snowdon 26, Snout 27, (the) Creek 28, Brain 29, Leonard 30, Oddly 31, Aster.
DOWN: 2, Big toe 3, Switch 4, Son 5, Plain 6, Sleeper 7, C-yan 8, Bottom 12, G-R-o-up 13, CL-ass 14, Nahum 15, S-it-E-d 16, Latin 18, Joint 19, Tur-n-key 21, Hatred 22, Swords 23, Motive 25, Sunn-y 26, Sell 28, Bra.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Messy 6, Poppy 9, Tension 10, Stout 11, Lunar 12, Cures 13, Legible 15, Kid 17, Arid 18, Parade 19, Duvet 20, Lancet 22, Dart 24, Eft 25, Strikes 26, Bully 27, Basic 28, Watch 29, Leveret 30, Cells 31, Beast.
DOWN: 2, Either 3, Stupid 4, Yet 5, Issue 6, Polecat 7, Onus 8, Placid 12, Clout 13, Ladle 14, Giant 15, Kayak 16, Debts 18, Petty 19, Deduces 21, Aflame 22, Dilate 23, Reacts 25, Sleet 26, Bill 28, Web.

◆SU-DO-KU-6785◆

		7	4		6	3		5
			5	8		9	4	
	2				9			
7	5							
2	9						5	3
							9	1
			6				3	
	3	9		7	1			
6		2	9		3	8		

medium

3	2	7	6	4	1	9	8	5
5	1	8	3	2	9	7	4	6
9	6	4	7	8	5	3	1	2
2	4	9	5	1	3	8	6	7
8	7	1	9	6	4	5	2	3
6	5	3	8	7	2	4	9	1
4	3	2	1	9	7	6	5	8
7	9	6	2	5	8	1	3	4
1	8	5	4	3	6	2	7	9

SOLUTION TO 6784

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Double Word Score	RACK 1
E1	U1	I1	R1	T1	D2	F4		
								RACK 2
O1	N1	C3	N1	M3	T1	E1		
								RACK 3
N1	A1	E1	P3	H4	R1	T1	5th Letter Double	
								RACK 4
D2	O1	U1	I1	I1	P3	N1	Double Word Score	
								RACK 5
A1	T1	K5	N1	A1	N1	A1	Triple Word Score	

PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

C3	R1	A1	F4	T1	E1	D2	RACK 1 =	71
C3	A1	R1	T1	A1	G2	E1	RACK 2 =	60
K5	I1	N1	G2	P3	I1	N1	RACK 3 =	92
N1	O1	O1	N1	D2	A1	Y4	RACK 4 =	61
							JUDD'S TOTAL	284

PAR SCORE 185-195

HITORI-3239

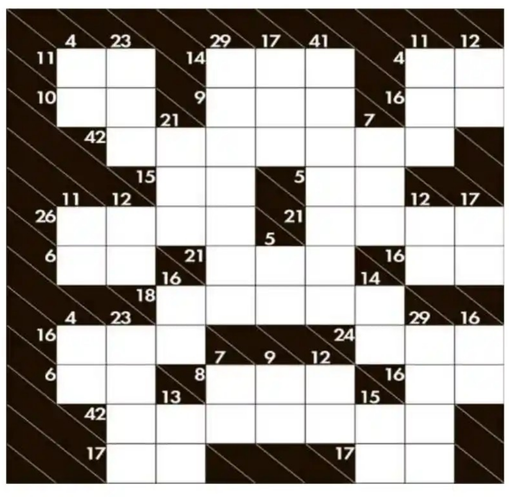
2	7	3	1	8	1	5	1
2	8	1	4	2	2	4	6
8	5	7	3	2	4	6	1
7	1	4	2	1	8	2	5
4	3	1	2	8	7	6	8
1	2	6	1	4	1	3	7
6	2	1	1	7	5	4	3
2	1	2	1	6	2	8	1

SOLUTION TO 3238

5	■	3	2	8	■	1	■
4	3	■	8	5	2	7	6
3	2	1	■	6	8	■	5
8	■	5	7	■	6	3	■
■	1	6	3	7	4	■	2
2	4	■	6	■	7	8	1
6	■	8	■	3	1	■	4
■	8	7	5	1	■	4	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

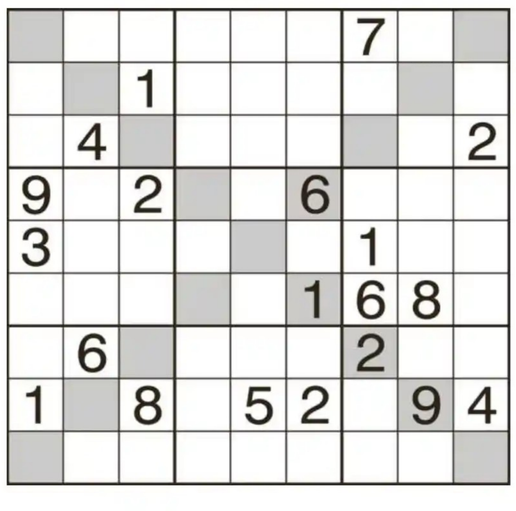
KAKURO- 3239



SOLUTION TO 3238

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3775



SOLUTION TO 3774

9	8	4	5	2	7	6	1	3
2	6	1	8	4	3	7	5	9
7	3	5	6	1	9	4	8	2
8	1	2	3	5	6	9	7	4
3	9	7	1	8	4	5	2	6
5	4	6	7	9	2	8	3	1
4	7	9	2	3	5	1	6	8
6	2	8	9	7	1	3	4	5
1	5	3	4	6	8	2	9	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CREIP

FHTFI

PNOOHT

ACPTYH

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: COMMA ONION POCKET SENTRY
Answer: Ruth Wakefield, who created chocolate chips in 1937, was — ONE SMART COOKIE

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Trump appears repeatedly in Epstein files

No wrongdoing by the president: Justice Dept

WASHINGTON, AFP

A new batch of files released on Tuesday by the US government in relation to the notorious late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein contains numerous references to Donald Trump, including documents detailing flights he took on his then close friend's private jet.

The Justice Department swiftly issued a statement defending the 79-year-old Republican president. "Some of these documents contain untrue and sensationalist claims made against President Trump that were submitted to the FBI right before the 2020 election," the Justice Department said on X, without specifying which allegations were false. "If they had a shred of credibility, they certainly would have been weaponised against President Trump already," the department said.

Epstein cultivated a wide circle of powerful friends, including Trump, and was alleged to have run an underage sex trafficking ring before his 2019 death in jail. Trump, who is not accused of any wrongdoing, fought for months to prevent the release of the vast trove of documents collected during years of investigations into the disgraced financier.

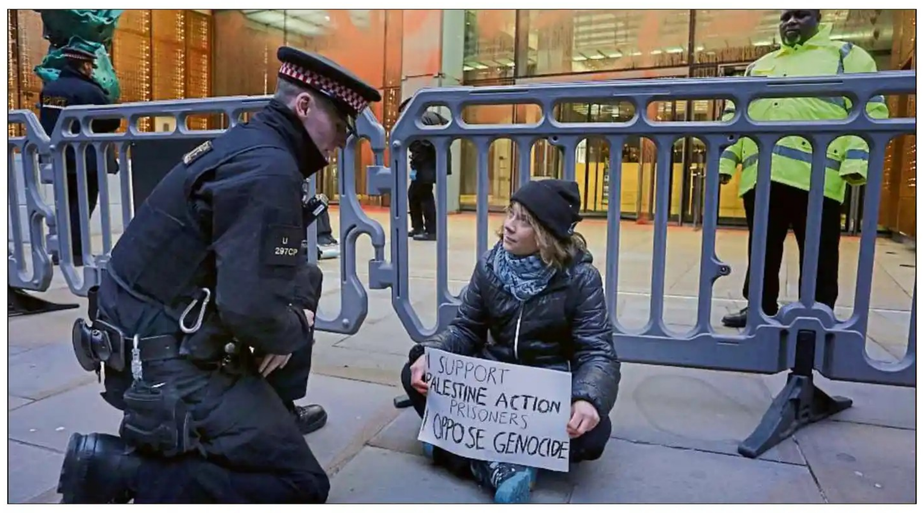
A rebellion inside Trump's Republican Party forced him to sign off on a law mandating the release of all the documents. The extraordinary move reflected intense political pressure to address what many Americans, including Trump's own supporters, have long suspected to be a cover-up. A first batch was made public last Friday amid fierce criticism that the Justice Department was deliberately slow-walking the release and excluding any references to Trump.

The latest slew of documents contains 8,000 files, including hundreds of videos or audio recordings. This includes surveillance footage from August 2019, the month Epstein was found dead in his jail cell -- and declared to have committed suicide.

Trump was friends for years with Epstein and the two of them were photographed together at parties.

The Republican has given different accounts of how he ended their relationship. He has said they fell out when Epstein "stole" young women working in the spa at his Florida golf club. He also says he threw Epstein out of his Florida golf club for being "a creep." But despite Trump's repeated claims that he was not close to Epstein, there is considerable evidence to the contrary.

The latest documents include a January 2020 note from New York prosecutors who were investigating Epstein's associate, Ghislaine Maxell, detailing Trump's repeated travel on the financier's private jet. It says "records we received yesterday reflect that Trump traveled on Epstein's private jet many more times than previously has been reported (or that we were aware)."



Swedish activist Greta Thunberg speaks to a police officer during a pro-Palestinian protest in London on Tuesday. She was arrested and later released. REUTERS

Israel defence minister vows to establish outposts in Gaza

JERUSALEM, AFP

Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed on Tuesday that Israel would remain in Gaza and pledged to establish outposts there, but his office swiftly downplayed the remarks made at a settlement in the occupied West Bank.

In comments reported across Israeli media, Katz said Israel "will never leave" the devastated Palestinian territory.

His remarks come as mediators are pressing for the implementation of the next phases of a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, which would involve an Israeli withdrawal from the territory.

United States President Donald Trump's 20-point plan for the truce states that "Israel will not occupy or annex Gaza."

Speaking at an event in the Israeli settlement of Beit El in the West Bank, Katz said: "We are deep inside Gaza, and we will never leave Gaza -- there will be no such thing."

"We are there to protect, to prevent what happened" from happening again, he added, according to a video published by Israeli news site Ynet. Katz also vowed to establish outposts in the north of Gaza in place of settlements that had been evacuated during Israel's unilateral disengagement from the territory in 2005.

"When the time comes, God willing, we will establish in northern Gaza, Nahal outposts in place of the communities that were uprooted," Katz said, referring to military-agricultural settlements set up by Israeli soldiers.

"We will do this in the right way and at the appropriate time."

It'll be 'smart' for Maduro to step down, says Trump

WASHINGTON, AFP: US President Donald Trump said on Monday it would be "smart" for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to step down, as US naval forces pressed a blockade on the South American country's oil trade.

Venezuela's key ally Russia, however, expressed its "full support" for Maduro's government, as Washington stepped up military operations and threats against Caracas. Asked by reporters at his Florida home whether Washington's threats were designed to force Maduro to leave office after 12 years, Trump said: "That's up to him, what he wants to do. I think it would be smart for him to do that."

He added: "If he wants to do something — if he plays tough, it'll be the last time he's ever able to play tough."

Firing back just hours later, Maduro said Trump would be "better off" focusing on domestic problems rather than threatening Caracas. "He would be better off in his own country on economic and social issues, and he would be better off in the world if he took care of his country's affairs," Maduro said in a speech broadcast on public television.

US to slap tariffs on Chinese chips

REUTERS: The Trump administration on Tuesday said it would slap tariffs on Chinese semiconductor imports starting in June 2027 at a rate to be announced at least a month in advance.

The announcement comes following a year-long investigation into China's chip imports into the United States, launched by the Biden administration and led by the US Trade Representative. "China's targeting of the semiconductor industry for dominance is unreasonable and burdens or restricts US commerce and thus is actionable," the agency said in its release.

China files WTO complaint against India over solar, IT trade

GENEVA, AFP

China has launched a trade dispute against India at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over measures affecting solar cells, solar modules and information technology goods, the global trade body said on Tuesday.

The WTO said Beijing had requested the initiation of dispute consultations with India, alleging that New Delhi's measures breach trade rules.

According to the complaint dated December 19 and circulated to WTO members on Tuesday, China is challenging India's tariff treatment as well as certain measures that it says are contingent on the use of domestic inputs and discriminate against Chinese imports. The complaint also targets subsidies granted to India's solar sector and tariffs imposed on products such as mobile phones and equipment used to manufacture flat-screen display devices.

"China said the measures in question include India's tariff treatment and certain measures that are contingent upon the use of domestic inputs and otherwise discriminate against Chinese imports," the WTO said. In its request, China said the Indian measures were inconsistent with provisions of the WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures.

WTO consultations allow parties to seek a negotiated solution. If no settlement is reached within 60 days, China may request the establishment of a dispute settlement panel.

Less than a week ago, India imposed anti-dumping duties on cold-rolled steel imports from China for five years to protect its domestic industry.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Members of choirs from various communities perform Christmas songs ahead of Christmas in Jakarta on Tuesday. AFP

Vance hits back at commentators over slurs targeting wife Usha

▸ US Vice President JD Vance has strongly criticised commentators for remarks directed at his Indian-origin wife, Second Lady Usha Vance, PTI reports from New York/Washington.

Vance was responding to comments by right-wing podcaster Nick Fuentes, who used an ethnic slur to describe Usha and referred to the vice president as a "race traitor" during one of his livestreams. "...let me be clear: anyone who attacks my wife, whether their name is Jen Psaki or Nick Fuentes, can eat shit. That's my official policy as vice president of the United States," Vance said. He added that judging people based on ethnic heritage was unacceptable. "My attitude towards anybody who is calling for judging people based on their ethnic heritage, whether they're Jewish or white or anything else, is that it's disgusting. We shouldn't be doing it," he said in an interview with UnHerd.

$450 mn Indian package for SL

▸ India on Tuesday announced a $450 million reconstruction package for cyclone-hit Sri Lanka as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met the island nation's top leadership and assured New Delhi's commitment to Colombo's post-cyclone recovery, PTI reports from Colombo.

Jaishankar, who arrived here as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Special Envoy, said it was natural for India to step forward when Sri Lanka faced a crisis. The minister called on President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and conveyed PM Modi's warm wishes and message of solidarity in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah.

Pak PM offers talks to Imran

▸ Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday offered talks to Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) to ease political tension in the country, days after the party's founder, Imran Khan, and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were sentenced to 17 years in jail, PTI reports from Islamabad.

Shehbaz made the offer while presiding over a federal cabinet meeting in Islamabad after recent overtures by the opposition leaders. "I have repeatedly stated in the National Assembly that if the PTI is serious about negotiations, the government is equally prepared," Sharif said.

Government of Karnataka
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Regarding recruitment of vacant Group 'C' and 'D' Group posts in Dr|| B.R. Ambedkar Residencial Schools, Dr.|| Pri Metric and Post Metric Hostels under Social Welfare Department through Outsourcing Agency.

PUBLICATION OF E-PROCUREMENT TENDER

No. DDSWD/S-5/OSE/CR/2025-26 **Dated: 15-12-2025**

01	Tender Pbulished No. and Date	No. DDSWD/S-5/OSE/CR/2025-26 dated: 15-12-2025
02	Tender Estimate Cost	Rs. 646.22 lakhs (Six Crore forty six lakhs twenty two rupees only)
03	Rate of Tender Form	As per e-portal
04	Date of availability of e-portal for submission of tender form	15-12-2025
05	Last date and time for submission of tender form	30-12-2025 5-00pm
06	Pri-Bid Meeting Date and Time	25-12-2025 12-00 pm
07	Opening of Technical Bid Date	02-01-2026 11-00 am
08	Opening of Financial Bid Date	05-01-2026 11-00 am
09	E.M.D.	Rs. 9,69,330/-
10	For further information concerned officer and address, telephone number:	https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home and Office of the Joiny Director, Social Welfare Department, DC Office Building, 'B' block, Room No. 25, Devagiri-Haveri. Tel No. : 08375-249292.

Sd/-
Joint Director,
Social Welfare Department, Haveri.
dipr/hvr/dipo/599/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು – 5700005
ದೂರವಾಣಿ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821–2420624
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಅ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟಿಎನ್/13/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.12.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ರೂ.10.00 ರಿಂದ 86.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತದ ಒಟ್ಟು 5 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ: 22.12.2025 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 02.01.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ದಿ: 03.01.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.30ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0821–2420624 ರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.mudamysore.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಬದಲಾಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು. ಮತ್ತೆ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/1403/KSMCA/802/2025-26

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ
ಟೋಕಿಕೆರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದೂರದರ್ಶನ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಎದುರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192–261485, 261825, 260016, 262203, 1800–425–2203
EmailID:ceo-zp-kada@nic.in Website:www.zpdavangere.kar.nic.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಪಂದಾ:ಅಭ(3)ಉಖಾಯೋ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/43982/2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮಾಗಾಂಧಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯಂ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು 03 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ (ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂ. RDPR/2025-26/SE2879/CALL-3 DATE: 23.12.2025) ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿದವರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ವೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.08192–262203 ಅಥವಾ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ 88848 04177 ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Particulars:- (1) Start date for Uploading the Tender document in e-portal 23.12.2025 from 10.00 am Onwards **(2)** Pre-Bid Meeting Date, Time & Place 26.12.2025 at 16.00 Hr through Direct meet in ZP Officein office working hours or through phone call. **(3)** Last Date for receiving pre-bid queries Date 29.12.2025 Before 3.00 PM **(4)** Last Date for submission of proposals in e-portal 30.12.2025 upto 16:00Hr **(5)** Opening of Technical Bids in the e-portal 31.12.2025 @ 11.00 Hr **(6)** Opening of Financial Bids of Technically qualified Bidders 02.01.2026 @ 11.00 Hr If Possible

DIPR/DVG/KSMCA/581/2025-26
ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U40010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Availing Service of Vehicles for commutation of Officers and O&M Service stations of BESCOM for a period of two years.

Sl. No.	Description	Enquiry No.
1	Availing Service of Vehicles for commutation of Officers of BESCOM for a period of two years	BESCOM/2025-26/ SE0251 Call-5 to BESCOM/2025-26/ SE0260 Call-5
2	Availing Service of Vehicles for O&M Service stations of BESCOM for a period of two years	BESCOM/2025-26/ SE0261 Call-5 to BESCOM/2025-26/ SE0269 Call-5

Bid Documents available: **24.12.2025 onwards.** Last date for Bid Submission: **03.01.2026, 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **05.01.2026, 17:15 Hrs.** The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers **(+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001)** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Ele., Procurement, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites for the following works on **Partial turnkey basis** bids through e-Procurement mode for tenders:

(1) CEE/Tr(OP)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-5/HNP-F-40(Add)/2025-26/11528-31 Date: 23.12.2025
KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3112 for **Providing additional 1x12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at 66/11kV S/s. Ganguru (Kallikoppalu), Hassan District pertaining to operations Division, Holenarasipura (Call-2).**

(2) CEE/Tr(OP)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-5/F-53/2025-26/11533-36 Date: 23.12.2025
KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3103 for **Replacement of age old/troublesome 11kV MEI make PCVCBs breakers by New 11kV MEI make MCVCBs breakers along with 3 additional MCVCBs & Shelter, Power and Control cables and additional 2x2.9MVAR 11kV capacitor banks and replacement of 63KVA Auxillary Transformer by 100 KVA and required Civil works at 66/11kV sub-station Udayapura in Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District, Pertaining to Operations Division Holenarasipura.**

The bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to e-portal website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"tenders" on or after 24.12.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.,)
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
3rd Floor, Prasarna Bhavana, Santhepete,
B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ಅನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560081
ಫೋನ್: 080–27832411, E-Mail: ka.chandapura.tmc@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಚಂ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಕೆಪಿಪಿ/ಟೆಂ/05/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ, 2025–26ನೇ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ತುರ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. (As Per Government order No.FD 4 PCL 2008, Bangalore, dated:14.10.2008 and Government Order No. FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, dated: 10/10/2027 and A&B Value Considered Upto 2024-25)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53028	29.90
2	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53030	29.90
3	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53031	30.00
4	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53032	29.90

ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1) ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2)** ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:09.01.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3)** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:080–27832411 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಂದಾಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಚಿಎ/4634/2025–26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.
No: EE(SJN)/KPPP/TEND/09/2025-26 Date: 23-12-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)-(SHORT TERM)-(2nd CALL)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivajinagar Division), BCCC, GBA Limits, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-1 and KW-2)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Improvement to CC Road and Drain Works at Sheshadri Road, Cross and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 116, Ramaswamy Palya. **(General) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
2	Asphalting to Kumara Kurpa Cross Roads Opposite Golf Line in Ward No. 117, Vasanthnagara. **(General) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
3	Improvement to CC Road and Drain Works at Marappa Garden & Surrounding Area in Ward No. 116, Ramaswamy Palya. **(CAT-II (A)) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 25-12-2025. 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **02-01-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Tenders is **03-01-2026 at 11.00 AM (if possible or next working day).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division, BCCC.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, GANGAVATHI.
Tq: Gangavathi- 583227, Dist: Koppal, St: Karnataka.
Contact : 08533–230243 Website : www.gangavathicity.mrc.gov.in
E mail ID : itstaff_ulb_gangavati@yahoo.com
ಸಂ:ನಸಗಂ/ತಾಂಶಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–12–2025.

KTPP Tender
(As per Standard Tender Procurement Documents KW-1/2/4)

As per KTPP 2000 Act by the Order and in the name of Governer, Karnataka State Tenders are invite under 2025-26 **15th FC, CMC FUND** for various Civil Work. Eligible registered bidders are requested to bid in **Two Cover** System via KTPP Portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on/or before the date mentioned as under through e-portal only. Manual application will not be accepted. Further details contact under signed office at Working hours.

1	KTPP Portal Tender Schedule Download Date from	**23-12-2025 at 05-30 PM**
2	Last Date of Bid Subbmission	**05-01-2026 at 05-00 PM**
3	Tender Opening date	**06-01-2026 at 10-30 AM or After days**
4	Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	**As per KPPP Portal**

In case of the Date of Bid Opening happends to be holiday because of any Special Circumstances/Govt. holiday, The Next Date is considered as Date of Opening.

Sl. No	Works Details	Amount Put Tender Cost (In Rupees)	EMD (In Rupees)	Working Period
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 43866/Call-2 (SC)	32,44,808.00	32,450.00	6 months
2	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT43708/ Call-2 (OTHERS)	59,29,719.30	1,18,594.00	6 months
3	DMA/2025-26/SE6776	40,18,000.00	80,360.00	12 months

Note :- Any changes in Calendar of events will be published in http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC Gangavathi.
DIPR/Koppal/554/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

AI strengthens resume screening, saves recruiter calling time

Offers insights on performance trends, retention risks

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now embedded across the hiring lifecycle, right from searching, selecting resumes, to filtering profiles, matching candidates to role-based projects/work. With AI adoption in hiring workflows, employers created around 11,200 AI-enabled job listings, resulting in about 12 lakh automated screenings, which saved nearly four years of recruiter calling time.

Jobs and careers platform Apna.co in its report said more than 73 lakh AI interview sessions took place on its platform in 2025, with over 1.9 crore AI interview minutes. In its 'India at Work 2025' report, the platform revealed that job applications rose about 29% YoY, driven by higher participation from women and early-career professionals, as service-led hiring expanded across tier-1, 2 and 3 cities.

Across tech and staffing organisations, AI is being deployed primarily to improve speed, accuracy and consistency in the early stages of hiring, said CIEL HR MD and CEO Aditya Narayan Mishra. It is commonly used to craft and standardise job descriptions, screen resumes at scale and map candidate skills and experience against role requirements using Machine Learning models. These systems analyse large volumes of profiles in minutes, helping reduce manual effort, bias and turnaround time, he said.

"Importantly, AI is streamlining the initial layers of recruitment, allowing recruiters to shift their focus from administrative screening to deeper candidate engagement, such as assessing cultural fit, managing candidate experience and ensuring smoother onboarding. AI is also being leveraged across compliance, payroll and workforce administration to improve accuracy, reduce errors and ensure scalability," Mishra added.

Job Postings Growth in 2025

Tier 1 cities	Growth (y-o-y)
Delhi NCR	32.4%
Bengaluru	26.5%
Mumbai	28.0%
Hyderabad	32.8%
Pune	35.9%
Chennai	36.5%
Kolkata	22.1%

Source: Apna.co

Apna.co CEO — Jobs Marketplace Kartik Narayan said AI has also become a practical layer in everyday hiring, improving preparation for candidates and efficiency for employers.

AI-powered Business-to-Talent (B2T) platform Impacteers Founder Manohar Javvaji said AI has significantly strengthened CV screening by identifying inconsistencies, skill mismatches, and fabricated experience patterns that are often missed in manual reviews. Advanced models cross-validate resumes against job histories, skill benchmarks, and behavioural signals to flag anomalies. "This has helped HR teams reduce fake or inflated profiles early in the funnel. Importantly, AI acts as a verification layer, improving trust and accuracy, while ensuring genuine candidates are evaluated more fairly and efficiently," Javvaji said.

Also, after hiring, AI offers insights on performance trends and retention risks.

According to TeamLease Digital CEO Neeti Sharma, most companies are using AI to search, select and filter profiles. This acts as a first-level filter and helps recruiters screen high volumes of profiles, matching skills with JDs more effectively and in much less time. "The AI tools do flag inconsistent data points in the profiles, which helps eliminate candidates that would not fit the requirement," she said.

Like recruiters and companies, even job-seekers use AI to generate their profiles that match the JD (job description) completely. Hence, companies do not rely on only AI tools for hiring. "Using the tools as filters, and then the recruiters take over the hiring process. AI works as an enabler alongside human judgement, interviews and BGVs (background verifications) to make hiring a foolproof process," she said.

Gold scales new peak of Rs 1.4 L/10g

So far this year, prices of yellow metal have jumped by Rs 61,900

NEW DELHI, PTI

Gold prices stayed in ascending order for the second straight day, climbing Rs 2,650 to a fresh peak of Rs 1,40,850 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, tracking robust trends in the global markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9% purity closed at Rs 1,38,200 per 10 grams on Monday. So far this year, gold prices in the domestic market have jumped by Rs 61,900, or 78.40%, from Rs 78,950 per 10 grams recorded on December 31, 2024.

Silver also rallied for the second consecutive day, surging Rs 2,750 to touch a record of Rs 2,17,250 per kg (inclusive of all taxes). In the previous session, the white metal settled at Rs 2,14,500 per kg, after registering a sharp rise of Rs 10,400 per kg.

"An unprecedented rally continues in bullion, with spot gold nearing another milestone at the $4,500 mark. The latest round of rallies is driven by expectations that the Fed will deliver more than one rate cut in 2026, alongside rising geopolitical tensions that are strengthening the safe-haven appeal of gold and silver," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst — Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. During the CY, silver prices have added Rs 1,27,550, or 142.2%, from Rs 89,700 per kg recorded on December 31, 2024.

On Tuesday, spot gold increased by $54.3, or 1.22%, to hit a record of $4,498 per ounce in the international markets. During the calendar year, spot gold prices have surged by $1,892.23, or 72.62%, from $2,605.77 per ounce, recorded on December 31, 2024. Meanwhile, spot silver rose 1.4% to breach the $70-per-ounce mark for the first time in the overseas trade. So far this year, silver prices have soared by $41.03, or 141.62%, from $28.97 per ounce, recorded on December 31, 2024.

HCLTech joins Microsoft Discovery platform to push research

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tech company HCLTech has joined the Microsoft Discovery platform, an advanced agentic AI platform designed to accelerate scientific breakthroughs.

As part of this, the company will participate in deep technical onboarding sessions with Microsoft's Discovery team to align platform architecture, partner collaboration models and explore joint go-to-market opportunities. Following onboarding, HCLTech will take part in projects to accelerate solutions in areas such as chemistry and materials science, drug discovery and semiconductor design, leveraging its strong domain expertise across industries.

The Microsoft Discovery platform empowers R&D teams to conduct large-scale data processing and simulation, automate workflows and accelerate scientific innovation to tackle some of the world's most complex challenges.

"HCLTech is a natural choice to help expand the Microsoft Discovery platform and the development of sustainable, innovative solutions," Microsoft Discovery and Quantum Corporate Vice-President, Product Innovation, Aseem Datar said.

India, NZ agree to collaborate in banking, fintech

Cooperation part of trade in services chapter of FTA

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and New Zealand have agreed to expand cooperation in financial services by facilitating opening of bank and insurance branches and easing norms for digital payments, the Union Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

The decision to collaborate in the areas of financial services is a part of the trade in services chapter under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is likely to be signed by March 2026. The two countries announced the conclusion of the FTA deal on Monday.

According to a statement issued by the Finance Ministry, the financial services annex of the India-New Zealand FTA was finalised during the last round of negotiations held on December 10.

The ministry said the deal will provide the "necessary institutional and regulatory framework to accelerate bilateral collaboration, facilitate market access and catalyse deeper integration of the two economies' financial systems".

As part of the deal, the two countries have agreed to collaborate on developing domestic payments interoperability and supporting realtime cross-border remittances and merchant payments through integrated "fast payment systems".

Digital payments

This provision directly strengthens India's digital payments ecosystem and fintech sector, enhances remittance flows from the Indian diaspora, creates market opportunities for Indian payment service providers and leverages India's technological expertise in digital payment systems such as UPI and NPCI, the ministry said.

India has agreed to ease norms to facilitate opening of branches by New Zealand's banks. Under the liberalised bank branch licensing framework, India has agreed to allow up to 15 bank branches of New Zealand to be established in India over a four-year period. India has also offered higher FDI limits in banking and insurance New Zealand's firms.

At present, two Indian banks — Bank of Baroda and Bank of India — operate in New Zealand through subsidiaries, while New Zealand has no banking or insurance presence in India. No Indian insurance companies have established operations in New Zealand.

WHAT THE TERMS SAY

- The two countries to collaborate on developing domestic payments interoperability
- India to allow up to 15 bank branches of New Zealand to be set up here over a four-year period
- The deal to make way for establishment of back-office and financial services support functions of New Zealand firms in India

"This FTA, by establishing clear market access commitments, regulatory transparency and bilateral cooperation frameworks, will facilitate increased bilateral investment, institutional presence and services delivery. The agreement will serve as an important catalyst for broadening India's financial services presence in New Zealand and welcoming New Zealand financial institutions to India's growing and dynamic financial services markets," the Finance Ministry said.

The deal will pave the way for establishment of back-office and financial services support functions of New Zealand's companies in India. One of the key elements of the deal is related to the collaboration in back-office and support functions. This will help the Indian business process outsourcing firms.

"This will enable cost-efficient delivery of financial services through centralised back-office operations in India, will also support growth in India's financial services, IT and business process outsourcing sectors. This demonstrates mutual recognition of India's critical infrastructure capacity for the bilateral financial services partnership," the ministry said.

Puravankara acquires 53-acre land parcel in Anekal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Property developer Puravankara Limited has acquired a 53.5-acre land parcel in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru, further strengthening its presence in one of the city's emerging residential growth corridors. This land parcel has a potential to generate gross development value of Rs 4,800 crore.

"This acquisition is part of our ongoing efforts to systematically add quality developable land to our launch pipeline across strategic micro-markets," Puravankara Limited Managing Director Ashish Puravankara said.

The newly acquired land parcel at Attibele Hobli is strategically located and has a saleable area of 6.4 msft.

Mallanna Sasalu, Chief Executive Officer-South, Puravankara Limited, said, "Before this acquisition, during H1 FY26, we added a total of 6.36 million sq ft of developable area in Bengaluru and Mumbai, with an estimated gross development value of Rs 9,100 crore. The addition of another Rs 4,800 crore brings the potential GDV to Rs 13,900 crore and the developable area to 12.76 million sq ft for the year to date."

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, 4th & 5th Floors, East Wing , Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-2265383
website : www.kiadb.in,

No: KIADB/JDTP/F No:162/556/2025-26 Date: 23.12.2025

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

KIADB has obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) for Establishment of "Design and Construction of Working Women's Hostel" located at Narasapura Industrial Area, Appasandra village, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District to an extent of 10435.00 Sq.m by State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) on 16-12-2025. The copy of Environmental Clearance available in the https://parivesh.nic.in website

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 23-12-2025
DIPR/CP/4638/CCL/2025-26

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com
Date: 23.12.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through e–procurement portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/SE0193	Secondary Freight for the transportation of KSDL Products from KSDL DPG/C&FA godowns to requisite destinations in Karnataka and Goa.	Services	22-12-2025	23-01-2026
2	KSDL/2025-26/IND0914	Procurement of iPads and its associated accessories to the Board of Directors, KSDL, Bengaluru Complex.	Goods	22-12-2025	02-01-2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/-
Asst. General Manager (Materials)

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi - 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CEK/TEC/WSS/15th Finance-RCR/5LL-OHT/2025-26/1229 Date : 22-12-2025

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER- 3RD CALL:-

1) Detail of Work : "Construction of 5.00 LL RCC Shaft Type OHT on 15 mtr staging at Askihal village of Raichur city under Restricted grants of 15th Finance for the year 2023-24 of Raichur city (Lumpsum-No Variation)." **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26 /WS / WORK_INDENT461)**, 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 104.60 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Rs. 2,00,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 12 Months, 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **23-12-2025 after 17:30 hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **30-12-2025 at 11:30 hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **06-01-2026 upto 17:30 hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **08-01-2026 after 11:00 hours**, 10) Addl. information : Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/882/KSMC&A/2025-26 KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ-561 203, ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080-29562046
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPA/TP/CLU/59/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.12.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರಕಲಂ 14(ಎ)ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (RTC ರನ್ವಯ)	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ.ನಂ	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ-ಗು)	ಬಿಐಎಎಪಿಎ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮಹಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1.	ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎನ್. ನಾರಾಯಣ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಬಿನ್ ನಂಜಪ್ಪ	ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ಕಸಬಾ	ಹಸನಘಟ್ಟ	13/2	0–29.50	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
					13/4	0–06	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
					13/6	0–29.50	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
					14	0–23+0–01 'ಎ' ಖರಾಬು	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
					15	1–13 + 0–04 'ಎ' ಖರಾಬು	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ

ಷರಾ: ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾ ಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ-561 203, ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080-29562046
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPA/TP/CLU/68/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.12.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರಕಲಂ 14(ಎ) ರಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (RTC ರನ್ವಯ)	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ.ನಂ	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ-ಗು)	ಬಿಐಎಎಪಿಎ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮಹಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಶಾರದ ಕೋಂ ರಾಜು ಎಸ್.ಎ.	ಯಲಹಂಕ	ಹೆಸರುಘಟ್ಟ 2	ಸಾದೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ	28/1	0–31	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
2.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಬಿ.ಎಂ. ಮಹದೇವಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಲೇಟ್॥ ಹೆಚ್.ಎನ್. ಗಂಗನಂಜಯ್ಯ	ಯಲಹಂಕ	ಹೆಸರುಘಟ್ಟ 2	ಸಾದೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ	28/2	0–13	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
		ಯಲಹಂಕ	ಹೆಸರುಘಟ್ಟ 2	ಸಾದೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ	28/3	0–14	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ
		ಯಲಹಂಕ	ಹೆಸರುಘಟ್ಟ 2	ಸಾದೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ	28/4	0–18	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ

ಷರಾ: ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾ ಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

Tata Motors to roll out 5 new electric vehicles by FY30

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) on Tuesday said it will roll out five new electric vehicle models, including the premium product range Avinya, and invest up to Rs 18,000 crore by 2029-30, as it looks to retain a dominant market share of 45-50% in the country's growing electric vehicle segment.

The company said it plans to invest Rs 16,000-18,000 crore in the EV business by FY30, including in products and expansion of charging infrastructure to over 10 lakh points across the country. "As EV adoption accelerates, our commitment remains clear: to mainstream electric mobility by making it accessible across segments, strengthening the ecosystem, and investing in India-first technology and localisation," TMPV MD and CEO Shailesh Chandra said.

"We'll make EVs available at all segments to drive further mainstream adoption of EVs," he added, noting that the company will introduce Sierra.ev and a new version of Punch.ev next year.

The company has the country's largest EV portfolio for personal mobility, including Tiago.ev, Punch.ev, Nexon.ev, Curvv.ev and Harrier.ev, along with the XPRES-T EV for the fleet segment.

Tata Motors has surpassed sales of 2.5 lakh EVs till date.

CoreEL raises $30 million in Series B funding

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-headquartered CoreEL Technologies India Private Limited (CoreEL), a systems engineering and technology solutions company, has raised $30 million in Series B funding. The round had a majority inflow from ValueQuest Scale Fund and was supported by 360 One Asset, an early institutional backer of CoreEL.

The Series B funding marks a significant milestone for CoreEL, validating its R&D-driven business model focused on developing innovative electronics products for fast-growing market segments. This funding will further accelerate the company's growth journey, both in terms of revenue expansion and an enhanced commitment to R&D to ensure long-term, sustainable growth, CoreEL said. The capital will be deployed across multiple initiatives, including scaling manufacturing capacity, strengthening R&D, advancing product engineering and supporting participation in large and complex aerospace and defence programmes in India and overseas.

CoreEL designs, develops and manufactures advanced electronic systems and sub-system-level products for strategic applications in the radar, electronic warfare, avionics milcom sectors and the company has delivered several critical high-end electronic system-level products and solutions to both strategic and commercial sets of customers. CoreEL customers include DRDO, Defence PSUs and Ministry of Defence.

IN BRIEF

Para-athletes shine at AYPG

▸ Karnataka sprinter Mohit Pal, middle distance runner Soumya and jumper Bharathi B cliched a total of six medals at the Asian Youth Para Games held in Dubai last week, reports DHNS.

Mohit topped the podium in the 100m and 200m races while finishing second in the 400m event in the men's T12 category. Soumya grabbed gold in the 400m and 1500m women's T12 events and Bharathi picked up a silver in the women's T37 section.

Germanite, RSHC B in final

▸ Braces from Shreyas, Shan and Benny Belliappa helped Rising Star Hockey Club B beat Belgaum District Hockey Association 8-4 to seal their final berth in the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

In the other semifinal, goals from Ganesh and Mohammed booked Germanite Hockey Academy's place in the final.

Results: Rising Star Hockey Club B: 8 (Shreyas 1st, 48th, Mahendra 4th, Shan 15th, 37th, Benny Belliappa 39th, 49th, Karampal 41st) bt Belgaum District Hockey Association: 4 (Shashank Kurpe 12th, Ritesh Jadav 21st, 34th, Karthik Patil 27th); Germanite Hockey Academy: 2 (Ganesh 8th, Mohammed 27th) bt Gameon Hockey Club: 0.

Balakrishna is MRC chairman

▸ KT Balakrishna, IPS (retd), was elected as the chairman and senior steward of the Mysore Race Club for the year 2025-26 at the managing committee on Monday, reports DHNS.

Stewards: BU Chengappa, KM Chandre Gowda, YP Udaya Shankar. **Committee members:** Rakesh Vijaykumar, LN Nataraj.

Aryan takes early lead

▸ Aryan Roopa Anand produced one of his best rounds as a professional with a nine-under 62, while the legendary Jeev Milkha Singh fired a seven-under 64 on the opening day of the IGPL Invitational Sri Lanka, the final event of 2025 Tour, reports PTI from Colombo.

The two-time All India amateur champion, Aryan opened birdie-birdie and closed in a similar fashion and had a total of nine birdies and an eagle against one bogey on each side of the Royal Colombo.

Jemimah is DC skipper

▸ Delhi Capitals on Tuesday appointed India batter Jemimah Rodrigues as captain ahead of the Women's Premier League seasonm reports PTI from New Delhi.

The 25-year-old recently played a key role in India's ICC Women's World Cup triumph, scoring a scintillating unbeaten 127 in a record chase of 339 against Australia in the semi-final.

Soorma HC name captains

▸ Star drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh and goalkeeper Savita will continue to lead the Soorma Hockey Club's (SHC) men and women teams in the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL), reports PTI from New Delhi.

Midfielder Salima Tete will serve as the co-captain of the women's team.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Pondicherry vs Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad vs Uttar Pradesh **(9 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

Africa Cup of Nations: Burkina Faso vs Equatorial Guinea **(6 pm)**, Algeria vs Sudan **(8:30 pm)**, Ivory Coast vs Mozambique **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

CRICKET VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

In-form Kohli, Rohit inject excitement

Defending champs K'taka look to regain white-ball mojo

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

An array of international stars and a cluster of upcoming talent will provide the much-needed context to the Vijay Hazare Trophy, beginning at various venues on Wednesday.

After the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) made it mandatory for all national team players to feature in at least two games if there is a gap of three weeks between two international assignments, the domestic one-day competition which has struggled to maintain its primacy, has received a shot in the arm.

And all eyes will expectedly be on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma who have set the ODIs afire with their recent performances, putting selection debates around them to rest; at least for now.

Delhi will get their Group D campaign underway against Andhra at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of Bengaluru and for a city that has been starved of international cricket in the recent past, this comes as a consolation.

Sadly, it will not be open to public as the Karnataka government rejected a request to host the game at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Given the June 4 stampede and the popularity of Virat Kohli, who will turn up for Delhi, in Bengaluru, the concerned authorities have played it safe even though the Karnataka State Cricket Association has offered to host the match behind closed doors.

About 2000 kms away in Jaipur, Rohit will be back in Mumbai colours after confirming his availability to play their first two games against Sikkim (Dec 24) and Uttarakhand (Dec 26).

India's T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav and hard-hitting middle-order bat Shivam Dube will play the last two group stage matches on January 6 and 8, respectively.

While Kohli and Rohit continue to be the cynosure, Shubman Gill, who was recently omitted from India's T20 World Cup squad will turn up for Punjab.

Rishabh Pant, who has gone out-of-favour in India's white-ball setup, will lead Delhi. The 28-year-old, who last played for India back in August 2024 in the limited-overs format, will be looking to create a major impact, especially after seeing the returns his 2016 under-19 World Cup batch-mate Ishan Kishan received after his brilliant domestic run.

VHT GROUPS

- Group A (Ahmedabad): Kerala, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Tripura.
- Group D (Bengaluru): Railways, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Saurashtra, Delhi, Services, Odisha.

Delhi's big gun Virat Kohli during a training session on Tuesday at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence ahead of their opener against Andhra Pradesh in the outskirts of Bengaluru. PTI

Fans take selfies with Rohit Sharma (right) ahead of Mumbai's game against Sikkim in Jaipur on Tuesday. X

Karnataka face upbeat Jharkhand in opener

Defending champions Karnataka, who open their campaign against Jharkhand, would have been pleased when the first phase of the Ranji Trophy came to a halt. However, things have gone southward since then as they were knocked out of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in humbling fashion, managing just two wins in seven games, reports DHNS.

Amid a white-ball slump, the Vijay Hazare Trophy tournament will also pose a serious challenge as they have been slotted in a tricky group with arch-rivals Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Tripura and Puducherry.

Karnataka will again look towards Karun Nair, the highest run-scorer in the previous edition and hope for their skipper Mayank Agarwal to return to form. Smaran R, who scored a brilliant 101 in the last edition's final, will be eager to continue his ongoing purple patch.

India's Shafali Verma drives one to the boundary during her match-winning 69 not out against Sri Lanka in the second T20I in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. PTI

Blazing Shafali steals the show

Opener hammers 34-ball 69 n.o. in crushing 7-wkt win over Sri Lanka

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

Shafali Verma hit a blistering unbeaten 69 as India made short work of a paltry target to outclass Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the second Women's T20 International here on Tuesday.

India now lead the five-match series 2-0 after another one-sided victory, having restricted Sri Lanka to a modest 128 for 9 through a collective display of disciplined bowling from the spin trio of seasoned Sneh Rana, ably complemented by young spinners Vaishnavi Sharma and Shree Charani.

During the chase, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (14) fell cheaply but Shafali, enjoying new found confidence after a stellar show in the World Cup final, sent the bowlers on a leather-hunt during her 34-ball knock, winning it for her team in just 11.5 overs.

The hosts have now completed back-to-back successful chases within 15 overs which speaks volumes about the unit's sky-high confidence.

Shafali's innings had 11 punchy boundaries apart from a maximum.

The floodgates opened when left-arm spinner Inoka Ranaweera bowled a few flighted deliveries and Shafali would step out everytime to hit her over extra cover. Her footwork against slow bowlers was immaculate whether stepping out to loft the ball or rocking back to punch or pull.

Seeing her confidence, the newly appointed Delhi Capitals skipper Jemimah Rodrigues (26 off 15 balls) also attacked as the duo added 58 runs in just 4.3 overs.

By the time Rodrigues was out trying to hit one six too many, the match as a contest was over. Shafali completed her half-century off just 27 balls and completed the formalities in a jiffy.

Earlier, off-spinner Rana, who got a look-in after Deepti Sharma was ruled out due to fever, showed her utility keeping the Lankan batters under tight leash with figures of 1 for 11 in 4 overs, including a maiden which certainly is a rarity in T20 cricket.

Charani, who made an impression during India's ODI World Cup triumph, took 2 for 23 in her quota of overs, while Vaishnavi after an impressive debut in the opening encounter, finished with 2 for 32, not letting the Islanders get easy runs in her second spell.

The last six wickets fell for just 24 runs, but what stood out during India's bowling effort was their superb ground fielding. After a patchy show in the previous game, the improved sharpness in the field resulted in three run-outs.

Sri Lankan skipper Chamari Athapaththu (31 off 24 balls) looked in good nick as she deposited length deliveries from seamers Kranti Gaud and Arundhati Reddy over the ropes but it was Rana, who kept her quiet by repeatedly pitching on good length.

Unable to manoeuvre the strike and with the big hits suddenly drying up, Athapaththu chanced her arm at another delivery in which Rana had shortened the length slightly.

Not having transferred the weight into the lofted shot, Athapaththu's hoick was pouched cleanly by Amanjot Kaur at long-off. This was after Athapaththu's opening partner Vishmi Gunaratne (1) had offered a simple return catch to Gaud. Hasini Perera (22 off 28 balls) and Harshitha Samarawickrama (33 off 32 balls) did stitch a stand of 44 but they could never set the tempo against the Indian spin troika.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 128/9 in 20 overs (Chamari Athapaththu 31, Harshitha Samarawickrama 33; Vaishnavi Sharma 2-32, Shree Charani 2-23) lt to India: 129/3 in 11.5 overs (Shafali Verma 69 n.o., Jemimah Rodrigues 26) by 7 wkts.
Series: India lead 5-match series 2-0.
PoM: Shafali Verma. **Third T20I:** Dec 26 (Thiruvananthapuram).

ECB to probe 'overdrinking' during Ashes break

MELBOURNE, AFP

England managing director Rob Key pledged on Tuesday to investigate whether players' drinking on a mid-Ashes beach break went too far, after reports said it had been like a "stag-do."

The England team headed to Queensland tourist playground Noosa after heavily losing the first two Tests in Perth and Brisbane.

They spent several days on the sand and around restaurants and bars, followed by TV crews, photographers and reporters before travelling to Adelaide where they lost the third Test and the Ashes.

Britain's Daily Telegraph reported that "after drowning their sorrows after the Brisbane Test, it is no exaggeration to say some, certainly not all, players drank for five or six days".

It added that players "did nothing outrageous in Noosa" but there was concern over the level of drinking, with England's professionalism already under question after their limited preparations.

"If there's things where people are saying that our players went out and drank excessively, then of course we'll be looking into that," Key told English media in Melbourne ahead of the Boxing Day Test.

"Drinking excessive amounts of alcohol for an international cricket team is not something that I'd expect to see at any stage.

"It would be a fault not to look into what happened there," added Key, who did not travel with the team to Noosa. "From everything that I've heard so far, they actually were pretty well behaved. Very well behaved."

He admitted that he did not mind players having the occasional drink, but "if it goes past that, then that's an issue as far as I'm concerned.

ECB's managing director Rob Key pledged on Tuesday to investigate whether England players' drinking on a mid-Ashes beach break went too far. X

Cummins out of Ashes; Lyon to have surgery

MELBOURNE, AFP: Australia skipper Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon were on Tuesday ruled out of the final two Ashes Tests against England with the veteran spinner facing surgery and an extended period on the sidelines.

Quick bowler Jhye Richardson and spinner Todd Murphy were named as cover in a 15-man squad for the fourth Test starting on Friday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Australia have already retained the famous urn with eight-wicket wins in Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide.

Cummins "won't play any part in the rest of the series", coach Andrew McDonald told cricket.com.au.

He returned from a lower back injury to lead Australia to victory in Adelaide in his first Test since July, taking six wickets in the match.

Cummins will now target full fitness for the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

PM Narendra Modi (centre) with Neeraj Chopra and his wife Himani Mor during a meeting in New Delhi. X

PM meets Neeraj and wife

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday met two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and his wife Himani Mor here.

Chopra, who married former tennis player Himani Mor in an intimate ceremony earlier this year, is currently on a break from competition.

"Met Neeraj Chopra and his wife, Himani Mor at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg earlier today. We had a great interaction on various issues including sports of course!" Modi posted on 'X'.

The 27-year-old Chopra endured a mixed year in which he breached the 90m mark at the Doha Diamond League but, hampered by fitness issues, could not defend his World Championship crown in September, ending up eighth overall.

He also hosted and won a javelin throw event instituted in his name in Bengaluru.

At the start of the season, the superstar roped in a new coach in Czech legend Jan Zelezny, the owner of three Olympic gold medals and the javelin throw world record of 98.48m throw.

NZ spinner Lennox earns maiden call-up for India tour

WELLINGTON, PTI: Left-arm orthodox bowler Jayden Lennox has earned his first call-up in the New Zealand squad for the white-ball tour of India in January next year.

Kyle Jamieson and Mitchell Santner are back with the former coming back in both the white-ball sides. Santner has been named in the T20 side only, as part of his return-to-play plan as he recovers from his groin injury. He will lead the Black Caps in T20Is.

Kane Williamson is unavailable for ODI selection due to his commitments in the SA20 league.

Michael Bracewell will lead the side during the one-day series in Santner's absence, surrounded by an experienced leadership group of Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell, Will Young and Henry Nicholls.

Lennox has been named in the ODI squad, alongside the uncapped Kristian Clarke, and emerging internationals Adi Ashok, Josh Clarkson, Nick Kelly, and the recent Test debutant, Michael Rae. Test captain Tom Latham and front-line seam bowler Matt Henry both miss the ODI series, with the former staying in New Zealand for the birth of his third child, and the latter continuing to rehab after his recent calf tear ahead of the T20 series and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in February.

ODI squad: Michael Bracewell (c), Adi Ashok, Kristian Clarke, Josh Clarkson, Devon Conway, Zak Foulkes, Mitch Hay, Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Jayden Lennox, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rae, Will Young.

T20I squad: Mitchell Santner (c), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Bevon Jacobs, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson, Ish Sodhi.

Pipers emerge champions

MUMBAI, PTI: Alpine SG Pipers stunned two-time defending champions Triveni Continental Kings to be crowned champions of the third edition of the Global Chess League (GCL) here on Tuesday.

The Pipers, who had sealed the final berth after edging Ganges Grandmasters by just one game point, were at their dominant best in the final as they won the first rapid match 4-2 with black pieces and then scored a 4.5-1.5 win with white.

Ashwa Veeram wins feature

DELHI RESULTS

S Nawab-trained Ashwa Veeram, ridden by Yash Narredu, won the Golbal Stud North India 2000 Guineas, the feature event of the races on Tuesday.

1. Maharana Pratap Plate - 1600M: Black Rainstrom (SM Abbas) Faizan Khan 1; Jet Space (Saurav Rawat) 2; Jet Thunder (Sunny Kumar) 3; Humaira (Shivam) 4; Wb: Hd, 2-1/2, 1-3/4L. T: 1:41.40. TB: SM Abbas. Fav: Black Rainstorm.

2. Prithviraj Chauhan -1000M: Meridia (Zulfiqar Khan) RN Manjhi 1 Royal Baby (Dhanu Deora) 2; Sunchaser (Kundan Paswan) 3; Super Speed (Arjun) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1L, Nk. T: 1:00.88. TB: Zulfiqar Khan. Fav: Super Speed.

3. Ravindergarh Trophy - 1600M: Ashwa Pathan (Ravinder Pal Singh) Vishal 1; Heer (Arjun) 2; Master Tornado (Riazuddin) 3; Bumblebee (Rakesh) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 4, 2-3/4L. T: 1:38.39. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Pathan.

4. Global Stud North India 2000 Guineas - 1400M: Ashwa Veeram (Ravinder Pal Singh) Yash Narredu 1; Rocket Rod (Shivam) 2; Ashwa Jimbabe (Faizna Khan) 3; Ashwa Changez (Narendra Kumar) 4; Wb: Dist, 1-1/4, 2-1/2L. T: 1:23.91. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Veeram.

5. KP Mohan Memorial Cup (Div I) - 1200M: Master Stoute (Sunil Kumar Verma) Faizan Khan 1; Chieftain (Shekawat) 2; Sleeko (Aasif Khan) 3; Exhilarating (Yash Saini) 4; NR: Insta Millionaire. Wb: 1/2, 1-1/2L, Nk. T: 1:13.45. TB: SM Abbas. Fav: Chieftain.

6. KP Mohan Memorial Cup (Div II) - 1200M: Ticker (SH Abbas) Vishal Shivhare 1; Winning Legacy (Shekawat) 2; Havana Sky (Kundan Paswan) 3; My Darling Bobby (Shivam) 4; NR: Nashvegas. Wb: 3-3/4, 2-3/4, 2L. T: 1:12.70. TB: SH Abbas. Fav: Winning Legacy

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 23w; 10, 10p; Fc: Rs 42; Q: Rs 15; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 22: Tri: Rs 123 & 56.
II race: Rs 42w; 18, 15, 16p; Fc: Rs 126; Q: Rs 93; Shp: Rs 25; .Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 903 & 623; Ex: Rs 1,574 & 433.
III race: Rs 17w; 12, 13, 27p; Fc: Rs 43; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 67; Tri: Rs 414 & 244; Ex: Rs 609 & 122.
IV race: Rs 10w; 10, 23p: Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 26; Tri: Rs 78 & 34; Ex: Rs 102 & 34.
V race: Rs 60w; 15, 10, 12p; Fc: Rs 136; Q: Rs 77; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 579 & 187; Ex: Rs 635 & 343.
VI race: Rs 63w; 15, 10, 10p; Fc: Rs 346; Q: Rs 100; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 396 & 173; Ex: Rs 712 & 358.
I jackpot: Rs 13,456 (14). **Runner-up:** Rs 267 (302). **Treble:** Rs 878 (66).

Rohith, Anirudh give Karnataka steady start

BENGALURU, DHNS: In-form opener Rohith Reddy and middle-order batter Syaamantak Anirudh struck half-centuries to take Karnataka to 262/5 on the opening day of their crucial match against table toppers Andhra in Elite Group D of the Vijay Merchant Trophy in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh on Tuesday.

Rohith missed out on his century by eight runs while Anirudh remained unbeaten on 71 as Karnataka's batting order laid the foundation for a good first innings total. Anirudh forged an unbeaten 47-run stand for the sixth wicket with Aaryasinh Chavda (15 n.o.) towards the end of the day's play.

B Netra Nanda (2/65) and Andhra bowlers, however, took wickets at regular intervals to keep the door ajar for them to get back into the match.

A draw with first innings lead for Andhra (13 points from three matches) could be a safe outcome to make the next round with a round to spare while third Karnataka, who have drawn all their three matches so far with a first innings lead (9 points), would want to maximise their point-scoring chances.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 262/5 in 92 overs (Rohith Reddy 92, Arush Jain 36, Syaamantak Anirudh 71 n.o.; B Netra Nanda 2-65) vs Andhra.

DR Congo edge out Benin

RABAT, AFP: The Democratic Republic of Congo edged out Benin 1-0 in their opening game at the Africa Cup of Nations on Tuesday, with Theo Bongonda scoring the only goal of the Group D clash.

Bongonda, of Spartak Moscow, pounced to score on 16 minutes at the Al Medina Stadium in Rabat.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Raul's penalty sinks Forest

Fulham climb out of relegation zone with a narrow victory

LONDON, AFP

Fulham climbed away from the Premier League relegation zone and left Nottingham Forest mired in the fight for survival after Raul Jimenez's penalty sealed a 1-0 win on Monday.

Marco Silva's side started the day just two points above fourth-bottom Forest, but Jimenez's first-half goal at Craven Cottage moved them 10 points clear of the bottom three.

While Fulham's relegation fears were eased heading into the Christmas schedule, Forest are just five points ahead of third-bottom West Ham in the scrap to avoid crashing into the Championship.

Forest had won six of their previous eight games in all competitions, with last weekend's 3-0 victory over Tottenham seen as a sign of their improvement under new boss Sean Dyche.

But Fulham punctured Forest's positivity as they bounced back from their midweek League Cup quarter-final loss at Newcastle. Fulham were without Samuel Chukwueze, Alex Iwobi and Calvin Bassey, who are representing Nigeria at the Africa Cup of Nations.

But that didn't stop the Cottagers from clinching successive league wins after beating Burnley last weekend.

"We are very happy and pleased for the three points. They are massive for us," Silva said.

"We spoke before the match about how it's going to be important for us to win again at home, and to have back-to-back league victories."

Dyche added: "That killer instinct was not there tonight. It's a reminder if you're not at it, the game will go against you.

"We got into good moments, but never really threatened. We have to do the basics better."

Forest striker Igor Jesus blazed wastefully over after Callum Hudson-Odoi's pass picked him out eight yards from goal.

Result: Fulham: 1 (Jimenez 45+5th) bt Nottingham Forest: 0.

Raul Jimenez celebrates after scoring Fulham's winning goal against Nottingham Forest at Craven Cottage in London on Monday night. REUTERS

Espanyol rally to win over Athletic Bilbao

BILBAO (SPAIN), AP: Espanyol won a fifth consecutive La Liga game, coming from behind to prevail at Athletic Bilbao 2-1 and stay within striking distance of the top four.

Athletic has struggled with consistency and fans at the San Mames were hopeful of a home win to boost the club before January's series of five straight away games in La Liga, the Spanish Super Cup and Champions League.

Romero

They got the start they wanted when Alex Berenguer scored the opening goal seven minutes before halftime, the left winger reacting quickest to a loose ball in the box and poking it home.

However, Espanyol drew level a minute before halftime thanks to a long-range volley from Carlos Romero.

Adama Boiro was caught in possession on the right wing and Manchester-born Tyrhys Dolan's low cross was steered home at the back post by Pere Milla. The result left them in eighth place.

Result: Athletic Bilbao: 1 (Alex Remiro 38th) lt to Espanyol: 2 (Carlos Romero 44th, Pere Milla 52nd).

AITA excludes Balaji from Davis Cup squad

Sriram Balaji

NEW DELHI, PTI

The AITA selection committee on Tuesday dropped N Sriram Balaji for the upcoming Davis Cup against the Netherlands but other selections were on expected lines.

The first round Qualifiers tie will be played in Bengaluru on February 7 and 8. India's singles challenge will be led by Sumit Nagal, while the squad also features doubles specialist Yuki Bhambri along with Dhakshineswar Suresh and Karan Singh.

Experienced doubles player Balaji has been left out of the squad, with the selection committee opting to look ahead as part of a longer-term plan. Explaining the decision, India captain Rohit Rajpal said the selectors wanted to invest in younger options.

"The selection committee felt it was time to look ahead. Sriram Balaji has been a very good servant for Indian tennis, but it was felt that he has become a bit soft and we need to groom players who can take the team forward," Rajpal said.

Ramita, Himanshu win team gold

BHOPAL, PTI

Ramita Jindal and Himanshu Dhillon **(in pic)** from Haryana clinched the 10m air rifle mixed team gold with a 16-12 victory over the Maharashtra pair of Arya Borse and Parth Mane at the National Shooting Championship here on Tuesday.

The triumph extended a dominating run for Dhillon, who had set set national as well as junior record of 634.5 in the men's 10m air rifle event on Monday.

Delhi's Rajshree Sancheti and Paarth Makhija settled for the bronze medal, holding on their nerves to win 17-15 against the Madhya Pradesh pairing of Shreya Agarwal and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.

In the same event at the junior level, West Bengal's Sandratta Roy and Abhinav Shaw defeated Tamil Nadu's Maneshika Tarun Senthil and Shaktivel Senthilvel 16–8 in the final.

Karnataka's Hrudya Shri Kondur and Naraen Pranav claimed the bronze medal with a compelling 17-9 win over Nishitha Bommidi and Ummahesh Maddineni from Andhra Pradesh.

Maharashtra's Isha Anil Taksale and Pritam Kendre edged past Tamil Nadu's Maneshika Tarun Senthil and Shaktivel Senthilvel 16-14 to win the gold medal in youth category, while the bronze medal went to Karnataka's Tilottama Sen and Abishek Sekhar, who defeated West Bengal's Sandratta Roy and Abhinav Shaw 17-9.

The 25m rapid fire pistol men's finals will be the next event in the competition, to be held at Dr Karni Singh Shooting range in the national capital on December 26.

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